

**DELEGATE / [delegate@aageorgia.org](mailto:delegate@aageorgia.org)**

Confidential for members  
November / December 2017  
Volume 51, Numbers 11-12

## Your Area Officers Rotate

By Ernie M.  
Area 16 Delegate

As I finish my term as your Delegate, I am saddened, but honored to have been of service to Area 16. The support of your Office Committee, DCMs and Committee Chairpersons has enabled me to represent you at the General Conference in New York knowing I had the "group conscience" of our Area. Area 16 has held four Cluster Forums and each had over 50% first-time attendees. As this message goes to print, we will have held our 64th Pre-paid State Convention in Macon and will be looking forward to hosting SSAASA IV (Southern States AA Service Assembly) in Atlanta along with Area 1 (Alabama and N. Florida). What an opportunity to learn more about service work.

As this Message reaches you, Area 16 will be holding its November Planning

meeting with your new Delegate, Rick M., and Alternate Delegate, Debi K. What a privilege to know and have worked with these two individuals in the past. They will serve you well. This year Area 16, in the spirit of rotation, are saying "thank you for your Service" to Tom H, Office Chairperson and four Committee Chairpersons, Gary (Archives), Dorman (Grapevine), Ron (Communications) and Chase (PI/CPC). We wish them well and success in all their future endeavors in AA. Rebecca T will move to your Office Chairperson, and I will have the honor to become your Assembly Chair.

I have received Area 16's current contributions to GSO - \$ 59,996.05 - 47.91 % of 780 **groups** contributing to GSO. In 2015, we had 45.9% and in 2016 46.4% of groups contributing. Let's keep improving. In 1959, Bill W urged in a letter: "Gratitude should go forward, rather than back-

ward... if you carry the message to still others, you will be making the best possible repayment for the help given to you." Again, thank you for the privilege of representing Area 16. May you all have a wonderful Holiday Season and I am looking forward to seeing each and every one at the January 2018 Assembly. I encourage every group to send their respective GSR's or Alternates as this is the best means of ensuring an informed group conscience. Let's increase our attendance. These Assemblies belong to you and I, along with your Area's trusted servants, and we need to hear and see you there.

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**ALTERNATE DELEGATE / [alt\\_delegate@aageorgia.org](mailto:alt_delegate@aageorgia.org)**

## An Attitude of Gratitude

By Rick M.  
Area 16 Alternate Delegate

I am very grateful for your allowing me to serve as your Alternate Delegate this past two years; it truly has been an honor and a privilege. I want to also express my gratitude for your vote of confidence for me to carry the voice of Area 16 Georgia, to Panel 68 of the General Service Conference in New York in April. It has been said in AA, "There is no timeframe on an AA member's gratitude, no expiration date, and AAs have long been focusing on Thanksgiving week (November in the US and October in Canada) as a tangible time to highlight their gratitude for AA and recovery and to turn that gratitude into action." I will try my best to turn my gratitude into the actions expected of my fellow AA members of Area 16 and, AA as a whole.

Thank you to Tom H as he rotates off the Office Committee after over ten

years of Area 16 service. I'm grateful to you for the experience, strength, and hope shared from the podium at our assemblies. I, as well as many others, will surely never forget the experience of Tom handling 13 motions in a single business meeting (got to be a record!). Thanks to Ernie M, our outgoing Delegate, for all your service examples and guidance for me as the Area 16 Alternate Delegate. I'm sure as our new Chairperson you will lead us well, along with Rebeca T as our new Office Chair. Thank you, Rebecca, as you rotate from Area Chairperson, for the great job of keeping us all on track during the business meetings. An additional welcome and congratulations to Debi K as our new Alternate Delegate; Debi and I are looking forward to working with all our Area 16 service representatives and members.

By now the Macon Pre-paid is over and a great time was had by all. The 64<sup>th</sup> has "passed the torch" on to the

65<sup>th</sup> Pre-paid Committee from Athens. Thank you to all the 64<sup>th</sup> Committee members who worked so hard to make this such an enjoyable experience. Your hard work and enthusiastic dedication was very much appreciated. Our next major events are the DCM Planning meeting in Macon, November 4<sup>th</sup> (at the GSSA office) and the following weekend, by the Southern States AA Service Assembly (SSAASA), November 10 – 12 at Holiday Inn & Suites Atlanta Airport North, Atlanta, GA. SSAASA is an excellent opportunity to meet **others** enthusiastically involved in service from states in our Southeast Area. There will be workshops, panel discussions, meetings, and volunteer opportunities for all. One of the best ways to meet people at any AA function is to volunteer for a job. Please sign up.

**Continued on Page 12.**

**TREASURER / treasurer@aageorgia.org**

**Help GSSA Meet Budget**

By Rusty L.  
Area 16 Treasurer

At the recent September Assembly in Macon, I reported that our finances in Area 16 are doing well overall. However, those figures hide a noticeable drop in group contributions. At this point in our budget year, our group contributions are over \$2,000 below budget, which is not awful by any means, but still lower than expected. Fortunately for Area 16, our literature sales have been stronger than expected and expenses are being kept in check.

Based on past years, we usually see a tick up in contributions toward the end of the year which

always seems to help overcome any deficit during the rest of the year. I hope you can talk amongst yourselves and your groups, and try to give a little more to GSSA in this last quarter to help us meet the budget that your DCMs passed last November.

The Pre-paid Convention is coming up this month. The Pre-paid **budget** is in line with past budgets, and I don't foresee any financial issues there. I hope to see you all in Macon for a week-end of great fun and fellowship. I expect we'll have a great time.

Thanks again for all you do to financially support your Area. You are the financial lifeblood of AA in Georgia.

**SECRETARY / secretary@aageorgia.org**

**Motions**

By Joan M.  
Area 16 Secretary

Have you or someone in your group or district ever had an idea that would change Area policy listed in our Service Manual? If you have been at the last couple of Assemblies in Macon, you have certainly witnessed the process by which we operate concerning motions.

Where do I start if I want to make a motion? If you know in advance you want to make a motion, there is a form you can fill out. It's the Georgia State Service Assembly – Area 16 Assembly **Motion Form**, and there are two places you can find it. If you are at the Assembly, you can up pick a form across from the Registration Desk. Or, you can print a copy from our website by going to: aageorgia.org>service tab>GSSA forms. If using the form off our website, you will need to make two copies. One will go to the Assembly Chair, and one to the Area Secretary.

The form asks for some basic information: date, name, District and Home Group of both the person originating the motion and of the person seconding the motion. Then, the "Exact wording of motion to be made".

If you know in advance you will be making a motion, the Office Committee asks for their copy before Assembly so the wording can be reviewed to get the clearest understanding of the intent of the motion. Then when new business comes around, you go to the microphone and make your motion. Of course, motions can be made from the floor the day of the Business Meeting. All the same information is still required and we still need three copies (original plus two duplicates). In either case, that's when the Chairperson opens discussion on the motion, and if need be, the fine tuning begins until the body decides to accept or reject the motion. If accepted, the process continues in accordance with the Service Manual.

**SELF-SUPPORT  
GROUP CONTRIBUTION  
PLANS TO AA SERVICE  
ENTITIES**

*"To help support AA's essential services, the General Service Conference suggests that individual groups, through an informed group conscience, adopt a specific contribution plan tailored to meet the group's financial situation."- Self-Support: Where Money & Spirituality Mix*

Self-support begins with each of us as part of a group. After group expenses are paid, remaining contributions should be disbursed to cover the expenses of our service entities so others can discover the miracles of AA.

Below are sample distribution plans. The group conscience should be informed on the financial needs of each of the service entities when making their distribution decisions as those needs change over time.

**Group Conscience Decision**

State Office, Macon:	_____ %
District/Zone:	_____ %
Central Office:	_____ %
Pre-Paid Convention:	_____ %
GSO:	_____ %
Total:	<u>100 %</u>

<b>Sample Distribution</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>
State Office, Macon:	50%	30%
Central Office:	-	35%
District/Zone:	10%	5%
Pre-Paid Convention:	10%	10%
GSO:	30%	20%

**Mailing Addresses:  
GSSA (State Office) & Prepaid Convention**

P.O. Box 7325  
Macon, GA 31209

**GSO (General Service Office)**

P.O. Box 459  
Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10163

*If you need additional information,  
please call 478-745-2588*

GRAPEVINE / grapevine@aageorgia.org

**New Book: Voices of Women in AA**

By Dorman P. Chair  
Robert M., Co-Chair  
Area 16 Grapevine Committee

The Grapevine's newest book, "Voices of Women in AA", begins with articles by or about women who contributed to AA early in its history, followed by stories by some of the program's earliest female members. The collection concludes with a chapter devoted to **women's** meetings. The stories demonstrate the various ways women alcoholics – often with great courage – find sobriety in AA.

Join members of Area 16 in sharing your experience with using Grapevine and La Vina's digital tools in the 4 Seasons of Service campaign. Your story could help Georgia be featured in a special section of the magazine about service next year. Visit aagrapevine.org or see the dedicated page in the magazine for more information. 4 Seasons of Service ends December 31<sup>st</sup>.

La Vina is now accepting Spanish-language stories for the May/June 2018 issue: "Welcoming the New-

comer."

Grapevine now has a subscription APP that you can use to subscribe to the magazine. The APP is currently available for Android, iPhone and iPad devices and should be available for Microsoft 10 and Amazon Kindle Fire soon. The cost is a \$1.99 per month with a 1 year subscription.

Each year, Grapevine holds a competition for member photos to be featured in the Wall Calendar. Send in your best photographs by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

I would like to encourage you, your home group and district to get involved with Grapevine by participating with the "Carry the Message Project." There are three ways you can help carry the message; (1) call Grapevine customer service at 800-631-6025, (2) fill out the Gift Subscription card in the magazine and mail it in, or (3) subscribe online at aagrapevine.org/CTM. The cost for a 1-year subscription is \$28.97.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve Area 16 the past four years on the Grapevine Committee. Thank you!

PI/CPC / picpc@aageorgia.org

**PI/CPC Chair Gratitude**

By Chase S., Chair  
Max S., Co-Chair  
Area 16 Public Information/Cooperation  
With the Professional Community Committee

As I close my last year of service as Area 16 PI/CPC Chair, I am filled with an extreme amount of gratitude. During the last four years, as Co-chair then Chair, I have been able to serve with some amazing individuals, such as my predecessor - LeAnne, and my current Co-chair - Max. I have learned so much from both. Being involved in service in Area 16 has given me the opportunity to give back to the still sick and suffering alcoholic both through public information and through working with professionals. Some of my memories include involvement in our Assembly workshops, the opportunity to work closely with GSO and the **local** media in 2015 for our International Convention, and exhibiting at professional's conferences. These experiences are ones that I will carry with me for a lifetime and have helped enhance my sobriety. I am reminded of a passage from "Dr. Bob's Nightmare": "I spend a great deal of time passing on what I learned to others who want and need it badly. I do it for four reasons (1) Sense of duty, (2) It is a pleasure, (3) Because in so doing I am paying my debt to the man who took time to pass it on to me, and (4) Because every time I do it I take out a little more insurance for myself against a possible slip".

times mean fewer friends are available to help them. This is why elderly outreach programs have become important.

The AA message can be carried to professionals at social service agencies assisting elders, as well as elder care facilities, including retirement and convalescent homes. Many AA members reach out to elder alcoholics within one's group, including those who need assistance getting to meetings and participating in the **meetings** as well as those who become homebound. And remember, some of those elder alcoholics who need assistance may have long-term sobriety and can serve as valuable resources for the group.

Treatment / Accessibilities treatment@aageorgia.org

**Carrying the Message to Older Alcoholics**

By Christie G., Chair  
Richard R., Co-Chair  
Area 16 Treatment / Accessibilities Committee

Based on the morning discussion at the September Assembly, here are some suggestions for carry a meeting into a treatment facility: (1) Try to show the video DVD "Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous", or the DVD "AA Videos for Young People", (2) Tell how AA works for you, (3) Tell what AA is, (4) Tell what we are doing, such as helping them make the transition from treatment to AA, (5) Play some Grapevine audio recordings, (6) Leave some copies of the AA Grapevine, (7) Leave some AA Conference-approved literature, (7) Talk about sponsorship, (8) Talk

about the importance of a home group and explain the difference between open and closed meetings, and (9) *Be There*.

Here are some more based on the evening workshop on carrying the message to the elderly. Extending the hand of AA to older alcoholics can offer hope to a population that is isolated and fearful. The support and recovery that membership in AA brings can be the doorway to a new life.

Alcoholism in older adults is often mistaken for the symptoms for dementia, depression, or other problems. And when they ask for help, many older adults have difficulty getting to AA meetings; they may have trouble driving or walking, and shrinking social networks can some-

**COMMUNICATIONS / [communications@aageorgia.org](mailto:communications@aageorgia.org)**

**Communications & Technology**

By Ron G., Chair  
Diane M., Co-chair  
Area 16 Communications Committee

When the Communications Committee began in 2005, the Ad Hoc Committee studying Area 16 communications “identified the many ways the Area communicates or could communicate inside and outside the fellowship. These include: “The Georgia Message” newsletter, the [www.aageorgia.org](http://www.aageorgia.org) website, overall “design” or the look of publications in print and on the web, the Service Manual, the Service Directory, letterheads, envelopes, a possible e-mail list, a possible phone chain, three State Service Assemblies, two DCM planning meetings, seven regional forums, committee displays, regular mail, fliers, the Area 16 office, brochures, and “We Share the Georgia Experience” possible update.”

In the years since the formation of the Committee, technology has advanced the means and scope of

Area 16 communications. Presently, the committee has addressed most of this original list of activities. In addition, the committee expanded and improved the website from a meeting list to a reference platform for both finding meetings including maps and to a reference platform for developing an informed group conscience for the Group, District/Zone, and Area. The communications function now provides **email** services for the Area, Audio/Visual support for the Assembly, and translation services for the Assembly, Pre-paid Convention, Cluster Forums, and DCM Meetings.

In most instances, the Committee aided in providing the technical expertise and uncovering or developing technology components to implement these communication tools. The Communications Committee will continue to be the means of researching, developing, and implementing technology to facilitate carrying the AA Message to those within and outside the fellowship.

**FROM YOUR EDITOR**

I recently returned from vacation having been on a European Cruise. I’ve been on other vacations around the world in my years of sobriety. AA is everywhere. The **message** is the same. With a little effort, we find each other.

My experience is that cruise ships either provide “Friends of Bill” daily meetings or allow for anyone to post meetings and the ships provide a location. This past trip I posted a meeting. Not only is it wonderful to connect with other Alcoholics, it’s a pure privilege to meet others from around the world. Overall, 5 people found our meeting. I met folks from England, New Zealand and Australia. Even though there were tons of people on the ship, we all seemed to keep running into each other. That little bit of support we give each other means an awful lot. When I’ve been in other countries, I’ve searched the web for local meetings. I’ve yet to find a destination that did not have a meeting list and a contact. If needed, I’ve been able to email these meetings and get more specific information.

Getting to attend meetings around the world and meet others from distant lands is always a highlight of any trip.

— Jenine M., Area 16 Editor

this goal. We look forward to helping them enter the mainstream of AA and their communities.

Our next Certification Training session will be Saturday January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018. It will be held at our state office in Macon. We start at 8 AM, and end before 1 PM. There is no charge for this training. Coffee and donuts are provided.

**CORRECTIONS / [corrections@aageorgia.org](mailto:corrections@aageorgia.org)**

**Let’s Bridge That Gap**

By Cathy B., Chair  
Ken P., Co-Chair  
Area 16 Corrections Committee

Our Bridge the Gap (Corrections Pre-release) program needs you! *How Bridge The Gap Works*(1) Inmate AA member requests a Bridge the Gap application, (2) Inmate mails the application to GSSA, (3) GSSA forwards the application to Corrections Committee, (4) Committee forwards it to the volunteer in the area the inmate is to be released, and (5) Volunteer is then responsible for contacting the inmate AA member.

We believe that the most important time in an inmate’s recovery is the first 24 to 48 hours after his or her release. Some of us who have been

in this position can share that although we had participated in Alcoholics Anonymous while in a correctional facility, we didn’t attend meetings after our release. We were simply too nervous, frightened or jittery to walk into a strange AA meeting. Bridge the Gap hopes to help inmates cross this hurdle by giving them a “friendly ear” on the outside who will make them feel at home in their AA community. Neither Alcoholics Anonymous nor Bridge the Gap provides housing, food, clothing, job, money or other welfare or social services. We do, however, help to **guide** newcomers to find these things for themselves. We strongly believe that alcoholics in correctional facilities need never return if they learn to live sober lives. We believe that Bridge the Gap can play an important part in achieving

**Birthday  
Contributions**

**District 4**

McRae Group  
Phyllis W – June 18, 2017

**District 8**

Baldwin County Group  
Amy B – July 11, 1999  
Wrightsville Serenity Group  
Chris M – August 17, 2009

**District 10, Zone B**

Fresh Start Group  
Laura P – April 8, 1999

**District 10, Zone D**

No Matter What Group  
Jennifer W – August 5, 2009

**District 11, Zone B**

Twelve-Step Sisters Group  
Tomma S – July 28, 1980  
Salem New Life Group  
Lesia H – July 27, 2009

**District 13, Zone G**

Deaf Sober Group  
Kerri J – 23 Year Anniversary

**District 13, Zone H**

East Atlanta Group  
Jeni W – September 14, 2011

**District 16, Zone E**

Chestatee Group  
Steve F – July 11, 2014

**Things We Cannot  
Change**

**District 8**

**Washington County Group**  
Teresa L  
Sobriety Date – February 13, 2002  
Passed – September 29, 2017  
John L  
Sobriety Date – September 14,  
1998  
Passed – September 29, 2017

**MACON MARRIOTT CITY  
CENTER  
RESERVATIONS**

NEED A ROOM AT THE  
MARRIOTT FOR  
ASSEMBLY?

CALL (478) 621-5300,  
PLEASE REMEMBER TO  
TELL THEM THAT YOU  
ARE WITH THE (GSSA)  
GEORGIA STATE SERVICE  
ASSEMBLY, TO GET THE  
GROUP RATE. PLEASE RE-  
MEMBER **THE CUT OFF  
DATE IS January 5, 2018.**

The Georgia Message of AA is published by Area 16.

**CONTACT:**

P.O. Box 7325, Macon, GA 31209 or [gssa@aageorgia.org](mailto:gssa@aageorgia.org).

**Editor:** Jenine M.

**PRINT & DELIVERY:** Tamera P.

**CONTACT:** [editor@aageorgia.org](mailto:editor@aageorgia.org)

**CALENDAR of EVENTS**

*Events listed here are presented solely as a service to the readers, not as an endorsement by the State Assembly. For any additional information, please use the addresses provided.*

<b>November 4</b>	<b>DCM Planning Meeting</b> Macon/GSSA 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
<b>November 10-12</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Annual National Corrections Conference</b> St Louis, MO
<b>November 10-12</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> SSAASA</b> <b>Southern States Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly</b> Atlanta
<b>December 2-4</b>	<b>Southeast Regional Forum</b> Orlando, FL
<b>December 7-10</b>	<b>Serenity Weekend</b> Jekyll Island
<b>December 30</b>	<b>McRae Group Birthday Celebration</b>

The deadline for the articles for the message for January and February is December 1<sup>st</sup>. There is no subscription fee for this newsletter, however all contributions are appreciated. Please  
Mail to: G.S.S.A., P. O. Box 7325, Macon, Ga. 31209

# THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA / PAGE 6

## Georgia State Service Assembly Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Business Meeting Minutes Pending Approval at January 2018 Business Meeting

### Delegate's Report—Ernie M

#### Delegate Message September 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 your Panel 66 Delegate. These past two years have been a very humbling experience. Thanks to all the DCM's and Area Officers for all your support.

How many first-time Assembly attendees do we have here with us this morning? ..... Thank you all for coming, and welcome to another adventure in service. Keep coming back.

As this is my last Assembly as your Delegate, I'd like to review this past year's events. All our Cluster Forums went exceptionally well and all had over 50 percent of attendees being first time participants. I would also like to thank Rebecca T., our Area Chairperson for representing Area 16 at the AI-Anon State Convention at Calloway Gardens which fell the same weekend as our last Cluster Forum in Acworth, GA.

This year at the Atlanta Roundup, your Area Committee Chairs were asked to have a display for their committees and be available to answer questions. I had the honor to moderate a discussion workshop given by these committee members relating on how they got involved in "Service". Everyone did an excellent job, and there were over 50 people in attendance. Hopefully this will continue into future Roundups.

Today, you will be electing a new Delegate (Panel 68) and Alternate Delegate for our Area. All the individuals standing are an asset to Area 16 and Area 16 will be the winner. In addition, you also will be voting on two motions before you proceed to elections.

### AAWS Reports

**Archives** – Construction on the Archives area at GSO has been delayed. As of now, Archives will be closed to visitors from September 20 – October 5, 2017. Archives is still working on a new A.A.W.S. book on Bill W.'s General Service Conference Talks from 1951-1970.

**Financial** – Net Revenues for the first 6 months are \$442,896 (13.31%) over budget and \$330,186 (9.59%) above last year this time. Seventh Tradition contributions have exceeded both 2017 budget and last year's total for the same time. Reserve Fund had a balance of \$16,270,084. This balance represents 10.7 months of combined operating expenses. The Trustees committee recommended transferring \$2 million from the reserve fund (\$1,250,000 going to Pension Plan Fund and \$750,000 to post-retirement Medical Fund.) This will decrease Reserve Fund coverage of operating expenses from 10.7 to 9.4 months. (2016 Reserve Fund for same period was 9.2 months)

The grass roots campaign started in the Pacific Region (\$7.27 on July 27) resulted in online contributions about \$9,300 and contributions are still being counted.

**Publishing** – Through June, gross sales were \$7,211,306 which is 2.5% over budget and 6.23% above last year's total. Gross profit from Literature Sales (first 6 months) was \$5,016,312 compared to \$4,547,871, or 9.3% more than the 2017 budget and \$469,288 (10.3%) greater than last year.

Summary: Total revenue for the first 6 months is \$8,788,186 compared to total expenses of \$7,821,310 resulting in a net profit of

\$966,876.

**Grapevine** – Through June, print subscriptions are 76,288. There is a total income of \$726,823 which is \$61,897 (9.3%) more than budgeted and \$11,451 greater than the \$715,372 for last year.

**La Viña** – There is a total circulation of 9,984 in 2017 compared to a budget of 9,579 and 10,429 last year. This resulted in a shortfall between its revenue and expenses of \$62,494 for the first six months of 2017 and \$20,892 less than budgeted.

**General Service Conference** – Site selection for the 2018 GSC will be in New York City, with plans being considered for visits to GSO and Stepping Stones for the Delegates attending next year's Conference.

**International** – Members of the GSO, normally the trustee-at-large and/or GSO General Manager, visit other AA service structures. They are currently preparing for the 25<sup>th</sup> World Service Meeting in Durban, South Africa in 2018.

**Nominating** – The Nominating Committee has made appointments, including Shari M., past Area 16 Secretary and Communications Chair, as Appointed Committee Member for Public Information. She will be appointed to the committee at the 2017 GSB weekend.

### Cooperation with the Professional Community (C.P.C.) –

Class A Trustee John Fromson's "An Open Letter to Health Care Professionals" has been posted on aa.org (Professional's page). A sub-committee was formed to continue exploration of a LinkedIn Page for CPC.

Concerning text being added to certain Armed Services pamphlets, the Committee suggested the secretary develop text, including information for professionals who are in contact with Veterans and active members of the military. Suggested pamphlets are "Members of the Clergy Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous", "AA as a Resource for the Health Care Professional", and "If you are a Professional...".

The Committee would like to have letters like "An Open Letter to Health Care Professionals."

**Treatment and Accessibilities** – The July Treatment and Accessibility Report was distributed to all delegates and committee chairs. It included a request for shared experience regarding "carrying the message" to both Veterans and active members of the military. Accessibility staff members are working with Regional Forums staff members to create a display of ASL materials for future use in all forums. The Committee decided to add the "AA and the Armed Services" pamphlet to the Accessibilities kit in the Fall when updated.

**Public Information** – The Committee reviewed "My World" PSA and requested the secretary to get estimates to dub a new audio tract to correct outdated information. Reviewed and accepted revised draft of the service piece "Frequently Asked Questions and AA Websites" for publications. The secretary was asked to seek input from AA Grapevine for inclusion in future updates.

The Committee reviewed a request for the Literature Committee to add information related to Safety in the pamphlets "A Brief Guide to AA" and "Understanding Anonymity". Google AdWords/Grants: heard reports on progress and asked ACMs along with secretary to gather info on how Google AdWords/Grants can be used to carry AA message.

**Corrections** – Over 90 volunteers from the fellowship, including

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former inmates who had benefited from the Corrections Correspondence Service, responded to the "Mail Call" published in the July issue of the Grapevine. Corrections has answered over 1149 letters and linked 259 inmates through the CCS since March. The committee received updates on the CCS and discussed strategies for expanding CCS in Canada as well as how to attract more male A.A. members to this service considering the most inmates currently waiting for correspondents are male.

### **Area 16's Request Concerning AA's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

I asked Cathy B., SE Reginal Trustee, to inquire at GSO's July Board Meeting on the status of a letter sent by our then Delegate, Tom H. in 2012. Here is her response: In January 2013, the minutes of the trustee's International Convention/Regional Forums read as follow: "AA's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2035: The committee discussed a request to form a committee in 2013 to begin planning AA's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for 2035 and tabled the discussion for the July 2013 meeting.

The minutes of their July 2013 meeting read: "A.A.'s 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: The committee reviewed with appreciation a request for the Conference to form a committee to begin planning A.A.'s anniversary and took no action. The committee suggested that the General Service Board include discussion on A.A.'s 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in long term planning."

### **Big Book Litigation**

In the September/October Message I talked about the sale of the 1939 Printer's Copy Manuscript of Alcoholics Anonymous. AAWS has gone to court and filed to have the sale halted at public auction. The August hearing regarding this restraining order did not occur and the court has set the next status conference for October 11, 2017. The 1939 printers copy manuscript of AA scheduled for public auction has been halted and the manuscript is under the supervision of the court. Note: All filings in this matter are a matter of public record.

"The discussion of the legal situation within the Board and with counsel, however remain confidential and privileged, so this as much as can be shared. On behalf of the General Service Board and A.A. World Services, I wish to thank you for your ongoing engagement, all your questions and expressions of concern, and your love for our A.A. Fellowship and the Legacy of AA unity. While some of you may disagree with our actions from time to time, please be assured that each Board member loves A.A. and is acting in good faith as a trusted servant in accordance with Tradition Two, as discussed in the Concept Seven essay.

The Public Information desk at GSO continues to be the primary source of communication about this legal matter. We ask you to direct your comments there, so that we can gather your thoughts in an orderly manner. All communications about this matter received as of July 27 have been provided to all Board members." Michelle Grinberg, Chair Gen Svc Board.

### **Contributions**

I have received Area 16's current contributions to GSO through June 2017. Our contributions for the six months ending 06/30/2017 were \$59,996.05. That is 47.91 % of 780 Area 16 groups contributing to GSO. In 2015, we had 45.9% and in 2016 46.4% of groups contributing. We have increased in percentages, but our total amounts have been less than in the past. If any of the DCMs wish to look at their individual districts, I have copies with me.

Our Treasurer will be giving a financial update/status on Area 16 a little later and the committee's proposed budget for 2018. I urge all the DCMs to share the proposed budget with their GSRs so the Area will have an informed conscience in November when your DCMs meet with your new Delegate at the planning meeting.

### **General Information**

Our Past Delegate, Rebecca T., will be giving us an update of the SSAASA scheduled in November of 2017. This service assembly will be a valuable tool to encourage service work. I strongly urge all to attend as it will be held here in Georgia.

If anyone has problems reaching any of the Office Committee by email, our phone numbers are listed in the GSSA Directory.

I have received correspondence from General Communications to the Delegates. This is from Annie, Delegate for South Florida, the Bahamas and areas south—Area 15. I would like to read her letter to you:

I hope this finds you well. I would like to share some updates with our fellow delegates regarding the aftermath of Hurricane Irma. At this point, we have not had communication with the members located in District 14 (US & British Virgin Islands), District 16 (Bahamas), Districts 11 & 12 (Upper & Lower Florida Keys). An email has been sent to our Area Committee requesting if anyone has evacuated from these areas and are attending meetings in another location to please contact me and/or our General Service Office. Offers to assist have begun to come in from our members, and until we can confirm what is needed where, please share the attached document with the group.

A large portion of our Area is still without power, but that is slowly returning. The good news is that meetings continue and the spirit that lives in each of us shows throughout our communities. I will continue to keep you updated as I can.

We know that the lives of those effected by Hurricane Harvey are also on the minds of many of us. Our prayers go out to the Southeast Texas area as well.

Many thanks for the prayers and be well my friend!

Love & Service,  
Annie Clark  
Delegate, Panel 67, Area 15  
South Florida

Guidelines for helping in these situations have been sent to all the DCMs. At this point, until we know what is needed, there is nothing we can do from Area 16. I think we have some areas within the state of Georgia that may need some help and charity does begin at home first.

Finally, I would like to thank our outgoing Committee Chairpersons, Gary N. (Archives), Dorman P. (Grapevine), Chase S. (PI/CPC) and Ron G. (Communications) for their service to Area 16 during their four years as Co-Chair and then Chair of their respective committee. As you know Tom H. will be leaving the position of Office Committee Chair. It has been an eight-year commitment for Tom and his services have been greatly appreciated. As this is my last Assembly as you Delegate I want to let my Office Committee members know how much they are appreciated for all the help they have given to me as not only your Alternate Delegate, but Delegate as well. You all have served Area 16 above and beyond the call of duty. Many thanks to you all.

Ernie M.  
Delegate Area 16

### **Recognition of Past Area Officers—Rebecca T**

Patty L., past Delegate, past Area Secretary; Glenda M., past Area Secretary, past Area Office Manager; Bill M., past Area Treasurer; Gene T., past Area Treasurer; Diane M., past Area Treasurer; Debi K., past Area Secretary. Visiting with us is Lisa D., Area 15 Secretary, South Florida. Thanks to Tamera P., Area Office Manager, and all the volunteers who make this Assembly possible.

## THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA / PAGE 8

### **Recognition of Outgoing Committee Chairs—Rebecca T**

Dorman P., Grapevine; Chase S., PI/CPC; Gary N., Archives; Ron G., Communications

### **Approval of Minutes from May 2017 Business Meeting—Rebecca T**

No corrections or amendments

Show of hands

All in favor

Minutes approved

### **2017 Prepaid Convention Report (Macon)**

Tracy M., Chairperson—Going to have a great convention, October 12-15. Thanks to Rick M., Alt-Delegate, Rusty L., Treasurer and Tamera P., State Office Manager for all their help.

Mike T., Co-Chair—Remember room #306. That is where food will be served throughout the convention.

Micah G., Registration—Currently 716 AAs and 37 Al-Anon/Teens registered. Registration available outside this room. We will have tables with AA conference approved literature and Grapevine literature for sale.

Randy, Entertainment Co-chair—We will have karaoke, golf at Oakview CC, the A-Z dance band, Big House and Rock Candy Tours (with discounts), yoga in the mornings before the meetings, and coffeehouse type music in the hospitality room.

Tamera P.—Kayaking down the Okmulgee River with pick up and drop off. Secure your kayak by prepaying before the Convention.

Connie, Hospitality Chair—Thanks to districts 7A and 7B for sponsoring time frames with food for room 306. If you are hungry for recovery and just hungry, we have you covered.

Mitch M., Speaker Co-chair—Speaker lineup is as follows: Chris S., Sharpsburg, GA; Donna H., Billings, MT; Earl H., Scottsdale, AZ; Jim R., Helen, GA; Kent C., Sandusky, OH; Sandy H., Port Charlotte, FL. Service workshops on Friday and Saturday.

Jenny, Al-Anon/Teen Chair—Speaker Elyse J., Clarkston, GA; workshop afterwards about Al-Anon also being for AA members. I encourage you to bring family members who have been affected by the disease of alcoholism.

Shawn, Outreach Chair—Thanks to the volunteers who have spread the word, registered members, folded schedules, and stuffed packets. To everyone, AA wants your help in "Preserving Our Future".

Bruce, Co-Treasurer—We're all good!

### **SSAASA 2017 Report—Rebecca T.**

We need your help and support of this year's Southern States Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly. It will be held November 10-12 at the Holiday Inn & Suites Atlanta Airport North, and is co-hosted by Area 1 (Alabama and NW Florida) and Area 16 (Georgia). There will be service workshops throughout the weekend. People doing the job will chair the workshops: GSRs will lead GSR workshops, DCMs will lead DCM workshops, and the Delegates will be presenting a skit. As always we need volunteers to help make this Assembly a success. Everyone is invited to attend, learn, and please bring someone who might be interested in what you do, and introduce them to service.

### **AREA OFFICERS REPORTS**

#### **Office Committee Chair—Tom H.**

I'm an Alcoholic and my name is Tom. About twelve years ago I was up at GSO in the Archives room, and the Archivist at the time was a woman named Judith. She came up to me and handed me a white pair of gloves and asked me to put them on, then she set a first edition, first printing Big Book in my hands. She proceeded to tell me that that book was the first book that came out of the first box when they received all the books from their first order of publishing the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous. She opened it up and there were all these signatures in the book of all the people that were there at that time. I can't remember where that

event took place. I know as she was telling me this I was overwhelmed with the thought with what this book has meant to millions of lives in and outside of our fellowship. And I was just reading the names. It wasn't like a school year book where names were just scribbled in with "Hi, I was here" kind of thing. It was neatly done. Like they knew this was a monumental event at that time in our early history. While I was soaking it in feeling the tears welling up in me, about my gratitude about my sobriety, she said, "You know about half of these people got drunk." And it almost ruined the moment for me, but she said, "isn't that the essence of our fellowship." So, I stand here today to say: why me, why us? Why are we a part of that half that's still here? I don't know about for you (yes I do) but for me it's been service. It's been service to Alcoholics Anonymous. Giving back, I think is a large part of the reason I'm a part of the sober half that steps into these rooms and remains.

My first service commitment was making coffee at the Hollywood Courthouse in Hollywood FL, Sunday Night Step Meeting. I'm in my 30<sup>th</sup> year of sobriety, and back then it was only the large coffee pots around. You had to get there an hour and a half early to make the coffee. It took an hour for the coffee to brew, then set up the chairs and literature. You were alone for a while until people started trickling in. And I kept that commitment for a full year. But I remember one day the Dolphins were playing on a Sunday night, and I called my sponsor and I said "Hey, could you make coffee for me tonight?" He said "sure, what's up?" I said "Well you know the Dolphins are playing tonight". And he said, "I'll tell you what, next time you want to drink you just call Dan Reno". And he hung up the phone. So, I made coffee that night, of course. And you guys know what I'm talking about.

I began my service, I've dabbled in General Service, but I began it in Young Peoples AA—in the International Conference of Young People in AA. I served that body for 17 years. Five years of bidding and hosting the Convention here in 1994. I was elected to serve on their Advisory Council (7 years on that body), then was elected as their Archivist which was another 5 years. It was supposed to be a four-year term but Katrina happened and I had an extra year.

I remember being in Minneapolis at the World Convention in 2000, and the then General Manager of GSO came up to me and said "You know Tom, AA has invested a lot of time in you, and it's time for you to give back in General Service". Like you, I think I serve where my passion is. I know what commitment is about. You all do... You don't go see Dan Merino when you have a coffee commitment. That's what we do. We make sacrifices to give back to the fellowship that's given so much to us.

I need to credit that General Manager, Greg, for me standing here today. I remember driving to my first Assembly after that comment from Greg, and I didn't think my heart was in it. And I always wanted to serve where my heart was in it. There's all kinds of service, like much bigger than what I've done, like opening the door at the meeting and making coffee. Those are huge, huge things. I remember driving down here and not being into it and driving home on Sunday, I remember thinking this is exactly where I need to be. This young snotty nose kid that didn't know anything about service, knew quite a bit about service when I entered General Service because of Young Peoples service in Alcoholics Anonymous. I understood what was going down here very well. I had been to this Assembly many times but mostly hanging out in the hallways, not involved. And I got involved, that's why I'm standing here in front of you today to say Goodbye, for this phase of my life, and to thank you, because the kindness that has been afforded to me. These guys will tell you Tom isn't so easy to work with sometimes. I know Patty is laughing in the corner. It's about passion. It's that we don't always agree. But it's because of you guys being kind to me. So many people I have met along the way, and so many to thank from along the way.

I wanted to thank you. I wanted to thank my family. I'm not married, I don't have children, but my family, my mom, dad and sister

## THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA / PAGE 9

have lost a lot of Tom-time because of service. They are grateful for it, and my sobriety.

Someone said something to me yesterday, and I'll just close with this. It's been eight years on this Office Committee, and a short break, and another two years as Area Secretary, and now...it's time to go to Disneyworld.

### **Alternate Delegate—Rick M.**

Before we see you again in January, we have a Holiday season coming up. The Area has this great book called "We Share-It". We have cases of these books available at our State Office. We are offering to sell you the We Share-It book at \$160.00 dollars for a case of 16. That's \$10.00 per book. We are waving the tax if you purchase an entire case. You, your group or your district can adopt a case.

You can go back to your group or zone and ask if they would like to adopt a case, place an order with Tamera at our State Office before the November 4<sup>th</sup> DCM Planning Meeting, and have your DCM pick the case up for you at that meeting. That way you avoid not only tax on the books, but shipping also.

What a great gift for your sponsor, or sponsee.

### **Cluster Forums**

2017 Cluster Forum Theme –  
"Supporting Our Future"

#### *Topics:*

Growth – Diversity, Safety, & Communication

Participation – Fellowship vs Membership, Leadership "I am Responsible..." Is your Voice Heard?

Contributions – Spirituality and Money, Fully Self-supporting Our Obligations, Apathy and Power of the Purse

All the Cluster Forums this year have been great this year.

### 2017 Cluster Forum Dates and Locations

Southeast Cluster Forum (Districts 3,4, & 5) Savannah –February 25<sup>th</sup> - **Completed**

District 17 Cluster Forum (Spanish) – Atlanta - March 18<sup>th</sup> - **Completed**

East Central Cluster Forum (Districts 8,9,12A,12B) Dublin - June 17<sup>th</sup> - **Completed**

Northwest Cluster Forum (10B,10E,14A-D, & 15A&B) August 12<sup>th</sup> - **Completed**

### 2017 Cluster Forum Attendance Results

Four Cluster Forums

Over 70% were 1<sup>st</sup> time attendees at a cluster forum.

The purpose of the Cluster Forums is to introduce the State Office Committee and Committee Chairs to the people in your area who can't make it here to Assembly. I saw and witnessed a lot of enthusiasm from those folks who were there for their first time. I hope that as a purpose of those Cluster Forums, that someday, they will be sitting in the seat you are right.

GREAT JOB EVERYONE!!!!

Treatment/Accessibilities Workshop – NABA Club, Atlanta – June 24<sup>th</sup>

Kevin - HOPE House – Hearing Impaired  
Keith L. – Discovery Treatment Center – How do we find these services?

Francine H. – Low Vision AA member  
Great Job Zone 13G, Christy, & Richard!!

Christy, Treatment/Accessibilities Chair is looking for a District/Zone/Groups to host their T/A workshop in 2018. See Christy for more information.

2017 Atlanta Round-Up  
GSSA Service Workshop Panel - Saturday  
Delegate (Ernie), Corrections (Cathy), Treatment/Accessibilities

(Richard), Grapevine (Dorman), Communications (Ron), and Pre-Paid (Micah)

How they got involved, Committee description, and How to get involved in Service.

Thank you for sharing your enthusiasm and experience!

### **Upcoming Events**

Corrections Certification Training, Macon/GSSA Office, Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 8am-1pm

64<sup>th</sup> Prepaid Convention in Macon, October 12-15

DCM Planning Meeting in Macon/GSSA, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 1-3pm

1<sup>st</sup> Annual National Corrections Conference, November 10-12, St. Louis

4<sup>th</sup> SSAASA in Atlanta, November 10-12

Georgia AA Service Assembly, Macon, January 19-21

### **Secretary—Joan M.**

September Assembly Attendance

DCMs	38
Alt. DCMs	18
District Secretary/Treasurer	10
GSRs	203
Alt. GSRs	48
Group Secretary/Treasurer	31
Grapevine Reps	6
Treatment/Accessibilities Reps	2
Correction Reps	1
Communications reps	4
PI/CPC Reps	9
Archives Reps	5
Members at Large	24
Total Attendance	399

Thanks to all in attendance

I'm always here to remind you to keep your information up to date with us. The way we like to communicate with you is thru email.

The easiest way to update your information is found on our website [aageorgia.org](http://aageorgia.org) under the Find a Meeting tab. There are three forms to choose from.

New Group Registration-one time only when registering a group.

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

Existing Group Trusted Servants Update-GSR or other trusted servants' changes.

DCMs, District/Zone Secretaries

Send district minutes to [districtminutes@aageorgia.org](mailto:districtminutes@aageorgia.org). When you do that, the entire Office Committee receives a copy. This allows all of us to read your minutes to better understand what is happening across our Area. Also, Tamera keeps a copy at our State Office.

DCMs-please remember to check you district mailboxes by going to [district\\_@aageorgia.org](mailto:district_@aageorgia.org).

### **Treasurer—Rusty L.**

Slides Available Online

### **Old Business—Rebecca T.**

**Motion**—Area 16 adopt electronic voting procedures for elections for a one-year trial period.

Open for discussion

No discussion

Show of hands in favor—145

Show of hands against—75

Motion needed 2/3rds to pass or 147 votes

## THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA / PAGE 10

### **Motion does not pass**

**Motion**—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.

Open for discussion  
Show of hands in favor—202  
Show of hands against—26  
Motion need 152 to pass

### **Motion passes**

No minority opinion

### **New Business**

Vote to use the 2018 GSC workshop titles for our Cluster Forums

Theme: AA—A Solution for All Generations

Topics:

Today's Alcoholic: Inclusion, Not Exclusion  
Participation in All of AA—Is My Triangle Balanced?  
AA Technology: Where Innovation Meets the Traditions  
Attraction Not Promotion; AA's Relation to the World  
Group Conscience: The Guiding Force

Show of hands  
All in favor

### **Delegate and Alternate Delegate Elections**

Reading of qualifications for Delegate and Alternate Delegate from GSSA Manual.

Roll call of DCMs for number of eligible voters for their district/zone.

After roll call we had 246 eligible voters, either GSRs or alternate GSRs.

Delegate results:

Chuck—18

Debi—24

Ken—12

Randall—4

Rick—189

2/3rds of 246 is 164

**Rick M. is our new Delegate**

All remaining candidates stand for Alternate Delegate.

Alternate Delegate results:

Chuck—27

Randall—3

Debi—192

Ken—24

2/3rds of 246 is 164

**Debi K. is our new Alternate Delegate**

### **General Sharing**

John R., DCM District 9—A couple of years ago Tom tasked the body to consider alternative sites for our Assembly and this past week was a very good example why we might need to pursue that a little bit more ardently. We are sharing this facility with members of a community who are restoring utilities to our neighbors. Let's as a body look a little bit harder into looking for alternative sites. We very well could have needed them this weekend.

Rebecca T.—Office Committee has been talking about this and will continue.

Pat, GSR Step by Step Grp, St. Simons—Observation: Seems we have a bunch of books that we are trying hard to move. The

books are paid for and we are asking the full price. Maybe if we discounted them they would move a little quicker.

Buster D., GSR Friendship in the Steps Group 14C—When we had the vote for electronic voting, I didn't know there was a time limit on taking a break. I think not everyone could vote. What's the protocol or procedure?

Rebecca T.—When we do the voting, it's based on who is in the room at the time. We always take just a 10-minute break, and we try to get everybody back on time. I was late getting back so you had a couple of extra minutes this time. I believe we gave everyone enough time to get back in your seats to be present at the vote.

Kathy, GSR I Can't We Can Group 13G—I move that the DCM roll call be made prior to any voting during the business meeting.

John, GSR Early Morning Study Group 13G—Second the motion.

Rebecca T.—This would be a Manual change. It is not presently in the manual so we would be adding to the manual. This will go thru the three-assembly process with an ad hoc committee to be formed.

Open for discussion on this motion

Sandra B., DCM 13J—Clarifying question. If it's before each item we are going to vote on and one of my people leaves, I need to come back up to the mic. First time I might have 5, second time 4. Is that correct?

Rebecca T.—Counts how many times we would have had to take a count if the counting is done as Sandra questions.

Tom H., Office Committee—This does not happen anywhere else. When you do roll call and you get a number, say 250, and you do subsequent votes throughout the day, and vote totals come in different, we base the 2/3 off the different total we get. The reason for the total is if we get a substantially different number when voting. I've never seen roll call before every vote.

Amy S., GSR Greenhouse Group—I'm a voted representative for my group. My group trusts that when I come to Assembly where there is a vote, that I am going to be responsible and stay in the room and participate in that vote. Be sober, be responsible, do your job.

George S., DCM 13G—Let me clarify the motion. It is not to have a roll call for each vote on each item. It's to do the roll call prior to any voting so we as the members here in the room know what the maximum number is. We know the total of eligible voters in the room.

Tom, DCM 16D—While I understand the intent of the motion, the problem I believe we are having is that you cannot selectively enforce the rules and that is what this motion is suggesting. You cannot do it for some voting and not for all voting.

Susan, GSR New Freedom Athens—I'd like to point out the count was given by the Secretary in her report as to how many GSRs and Alt GSRs are signed in. Information is available if you are paying attention.

Frank M., DCM 5A—From my experience when I'm a counter, it is hard to count hands ½ up. Things are going to go the way our Higher Power wants. If we need to fight about it it's probably my plan. There is room for error but I was taught to trust the process.

## THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA / PAGE 11

Jared G., DCM 13L—Correct me if I'm wrong, but the Secretary report lists the number of GSRs and Alt GSRs. There can be an Alt GSR and GSR for the same group present. If you combine those the count isn't accurate because they both cannot vote.

Rebecca T.—Correct, however, keep in mind we could not have more than the number reported by the Secretary.

John GSR Early Morning Study Group 13G—The intent of this is before we do any voting on motions, not necessarily the minutes, but maybe the minutes, we as a body know how many qualified eligible voters there are in the house. The count we heard this morning was GSRs, Alt GSRs combined. It was not the number of qualified voters because there are Alts here that are not voting and some who are. Having the DCM roll call before, the DCM knows who the qualified eligible voters are in those rows and if we tally those up before any motions are taken then we all know how many qualified voters there are and we wouldn't have this cloud.

Rebecca T.—To the lady who made the motion, are you suggesting an amendment to this motion? Because what I heard you just share is that you want the roll call for when we do motions. And what you have written down is that I move that a DCM roll call be made prior to any voting.

John GSR Early Morning Study Group 13G—Before any vote not every vote. Any vote is before the first vote.

Rebecca T.—Any vote would also include the minutes. We are looking for clarification of the motion so the study group will be able to review it properly.

John GSR—Because this is a business meeting, I think the DCM roll call should be at the beginning of the meeting as a part of the qualifying process of the Delegates and then we can take care of whatever votes we need to.

Rebecca T.—The motion remains as it is: I move that the DCM roll call be made prior to any voting during the Business Meeting.

Kathy GSR 13G—I can change the motion to read to be made at the beginning of the Business Meeting and not for any voting so there is no confusion about having to do a roll call before every single vote. And the DCMs are the most qualified to know who the eligible voters are in their zone.  
Yes, I would like to amend the motion to say at the beginning of the Business Meeting if that clarifies the motion.

Rusty L., Treasurer—Why don't you take voting out of it, making the motion:  
I move we do a roll call of eligible voters at the beginning of every Business Meeting.

John Alt GSR Turning Point Group 14C—Looking at the State Service Manual, there is no section in there that addresses the voting process per say. I would like to suggest that a motion be entertained and drafted to place that procedure in the manual. This issue would not have occurred had that procedure been outlined and available to us prior to the meeting.

Rebecca T.—That would take a separate motion than what we are talking about today.

Kathy B., Area Corrections Chair, Cumming Group 16E—I trust my trusted servants to vote properly. Usually prior to the beginning of each business meeting, someone from the dais says "your GSR or dually elected Alt can vote". Sometimes I've heard it stressed more than once during the meeting. I do not think we need to do this at all.

Gresham, Alt GSR 10pm Group Atlanta—What about abstentions in our voting. Does it matter? Do we even ask that question?

Tom H., Office Committee—You can vote or not vote. Abstentions do not matter.  
Just to review where we are at. What happened is that we had roll call like we normally do and then we had votes on a couple of motions and someone caught that the GSRs were 203 but now we have 225 votes. Secretary's report said there were 203. Then Rebecca said there were 203 GSRs and 48 Alt GSRs so there was a potential of 251 votes. You don't add the two together. That's why you use the word potential. But when we did roll call the total was 246 voting members. When this was happening Rick and I said "We just need to do roll call at the very beginning". I sense a lot of fear, conspiracy theory, etc. The math verifies the votes were right. It's your right to leave the room. I like to stay. Our count is just to give us a base to go by. And if we're off by a couple we don't care. We'll just redo the math. It's only when we are off by 50-100 we are going to question it.

Kathy Mc., 13G—Accepts amendment to motion. **Motion now reads:** I move that we take a roll call of eligible voters at the beginning of every Business Meeting.

Tom H., Office Committee—I want the body to understand that she does not have to accept this amendment. In AA, we have something called friendly amendments, and there are bunches of unfriendly amendments. If she doesn't accept it but the body does, then we vote. Or the body can say no. She doesn't have a say at this point. There is a motion on the floor that has been seconded, and from here forward, the body gets to approve.

Rebecca T.—We have a motion, it's been amended, now we need a second from a GSR.

Mark, GSR Solution Group 16D—I second the motion.

All in favor of amended motion?

Show of hands

All in favor

None opposed

Open for discussion

Patsy, Alt DCM 13D—I agree with what's been said about I don't see the need in this motion regardless of the changes to it. What's the purpose of signing in at registration? If you register on Saturday or Sunday, you have the number of eligible voters. It seems like a whole lot of voter fraud commission. Where is the trust? It seems like we have always done this the way it is set up and I don't see the point in it.

Rebecca T.—The reason the Secretary report is not accurate is because you can have both GSR and their Alt here but only one can vote.

Randall, DCM 16E—Couldn't we add a column to the registration paperwork such as "I am a GSR, or I am an Alt GSR who will be voting today?". There by you would have a precise count of potential voters.

Rebecca T.—We can pass that information on to our incoming Delegate that will appoint the study group.

GSR, Generation X 13K—I was sitting here and during the minute's approval, only 4/5ths of the people were in here. So, if we take a vote only once what happens to the other 5ht of the people that weren't there? I understand not being able to vote for one specific thing, but if we can't vote for the whole entire time we

are here, I think that's something we should talk about and think about.

Rebecca T.—I think Tom clarified that when he answered that question. We would do the roll call, we would get that number, and if it's off 3,4,5 votes we wouldn't question it. But when it's off 10, 20 votes, we are going to start saying we have a problem.

Chris, GSR Sunrise Group 16B—From my understanding we must register prior to the business meeting at the assembly before time so we can vote. If there is only one person here the GSR votes. If both the GSR and Alt GSR are here the GSR take precedence over the Alternate. It was my understanding when I was told of how I needed to register to vote, that I had to sign in before 9am or I did not get to vote. We've already got the number.

Bill B., College Step Study District 6—If we take roll call before the beginning of the meeting and see how many eligible voters we have and we still have people that can come in late, our numbers would be higher than what we took at roll call. Right now, the way I see it the system works. This is an honest program. To me the system isn't broke.

Christy—Current Treatment Chair, past DCM and GSR. Duties of the DCM in our service manual #10 says "Make sure your GSRs understand and are familiar with the Service Manual and GSR handbook". I trust that my GSR, or DCMs are going to make sure that one group one vote.

Karen A., GSR 12 Step Sisters 11B—I would like to call the question.

Mark GSR Solutions Group 16D—2<sup>nd</sup> the motion to call the question.

Show of hand—All in favor

Incoming Delegate will set up and ad hoc committee on this matter to report back at the January Assembly and then vote in May.

Amy S., GSR Greenhouse Group—Motion to close.

Erin GSR Vinings Firehouse—Second the motion.

Meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer in Spanish and English.

**Continued from Page 1**

Over this past year it has been my responsibility and pleasure to travel Georgia and meet many of you. To participate in our Assembly, Cluster Forums, Convention meetings, and to make myself available to you – this has been the primary focus of my service for 2017. I want to wish you all a very happy holiday season and I hope to see you all in January at our next Assembly!

**NEW**



**VOICES OF WOMEN IN AA**  
Stories of experience, strength and hope from Grapevine

**HOW TO CONTACT TRUSTED SERVANTS**

To preserve anonymity, the Georgia Message of AA does not contain personal phone numbers, personal email addresses or the password to access protected information on [www.aageorgia.org](http://www.aageorgia.org). Here are some tips on how to reach trusted servants:

1. Use the official email addresses for Area 16 trusted servants located above articles, in our service directory or on [aageorgia.org](http://aageorgia.org).
2. To get a phone number, use the service directory given to each group at the January Assembly or call our Macon office at 478.745.2588.
3. The password to access protected web content can be obtained from the service directory, your GSR, your DCM, the Area office in Macon, [webmaster@aageorgia.org](mailto:webmaster@aageorgia.org) or other trusted servants. Please provide any feedback to: [communications@aageorgia.org](mailto:communications@aageorgia.org) or [editor@aageorgia.org](mailto:editor@aageorgia.org).

**WORD SEARCH**

The words that are within the Word Search below can be found highlighted in each of the Area Officer articles in this newsletter.

A	G	H	R	N	W	E	V	L	H	Z	N	T	Y	E	J	D	K	L
D	V	Q	D	U	Q	X	H	K	I	P	H	N	T	Q	N	U	H	B
M	W	Y	L	K	N	S	K	P	B	A	N	S	R	E	H	T	O	Z
R	D	I	I	O	G	D	Z	E	K	J	M	U	R	W	G	K	F	R
G	I	E	I	S	G	N	I	T	E	E	M	E	D	H	Q	D	N	Z
C	B	T	O	C	O	M	F	G	X	N	M	A	M	R	K	V	U	L
S	O	W	H	K	O	O	E	T	S	R	A	J	F	Z	J	I	A	B
M	L	P	D	R	G	M	R	S	E	N	D	V	X	Z	G	A	S	C
C	Q	W	V	U	J	O	W	S	S	W	T	V	C	C	W	A	N	L
G	E	Y	I	U	I	L	Y	D	O	A	J	Y	K	K	Q	M	S	S
P	R	D	O	N	D	K	F	M	X	G	G	I	A	C	I	N	O	M
N	E	O	G	A	Z	F	E	E	I	D	P	E	T	T	B	L	M	F
B	S	F	U	L	Y	N	C	R	H	D	U	P	Q	J	B	I	W	I
W	O	O	L	P	E	R	D	Y	L	F	K	Y	K	L	Z	D	Q	K
T	C	J	A	W	S	X	Y	N	G	A	V	D	J	F	Z	X	T	E
W	C	A	C	B	M	Z	M	Y	Y	Q	P	J	S	I	M	B	F	J
T	Q	B	O	O	U	L	U	T	I	N	Y	Y	K	B	Z	M	O	Y
M	W	O	L	B	F	H	K	S	J	Q	B	J	J	S	L	Y	M	W

# SSAASA

4<sup>th</sup> Southern States Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly  
Co-hosted by Area 1 (AL & NW FL), Area 16 (GA) & Areas of the Southeast Region

**November 10-12, 2017**

**All A.A. members are invited & encouraged to attend!**

**Holiday Inn & Suites  
Atl. Airport North  
1380 Virginia Ave  
Atlanta, GA 30344  
Room Rate \$109/ Suites  
\$139.00/Parking \$4.00  
(404) 669 - 1214**



### What's Happening?

- Service Workshops
- Panel Discussions
- Sharing SERVICE EXPERIENCE with others who have the same job and more!
- AA Meetings

[Holiday Inn - Atlanta - Reservations](#)

Online registration [aaarea1.org/ssaasa.html](http://aaarea1.org/ssaasa.html)

### Registration Form Clip & Send

Name \_\_\_\_\_ AA Area # \_\_\_\_\_ Name on Badge \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Needs \_\_\_\_\_

#### Service Commitments (Check all that apply)

- AA Member \_\_\_\_\_
- GSR or Alternate \_\_\_\_\_
- DCM or Alternate \_\_\_\_\_
- Central Office or Intergroup \_\_\_\_\_
- Area Committee or Officer \_\_\_\_\_
- Delegate or Alternate \_\_\_\_\_
- Past Delegate \_\_\_\_\_
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

#### Willing to be of service at SSAASA?

- Participate on a panel or workshop
- Be a Greeter
- Work at Registration Table
- Lead an AA Meeting
- Be a Reader
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Enclose check or money order:  
Early Bird (\$25) postmarked by  
Nov 1, 2017

No. Registrations \_\_\_ X \$25 = \_\_\_  
( \$30 at the door )

Total enclosed. \_\_\_\_\_

(Please include a separate registration  
form for each participant.)

SSAASA 2017  
PO Box 831  
Satsuma, Al. 36572