

DELEGATE / delegate@aageorgia.org

Our common welfare

By Tom H.
Area 16 Delegate

I want to thank all the participants and volunteers for the January Georgia State Service Assembly. I am continually amazed by the effort it takes to make the Assembly run smoothly, the amount of effort given on presentation topics, and the volunteers behind the scenes that don't get thanked enough.

One of the topics chosen for the General Service Representative Workshop was titled 'Safety in AA: Our Common Welfare'. This is the workshop topic for the 2012 General Service Conference (GSC). There will be a sharing session at the GSC on this topic and the questions that were asked to review are:

1. How can we make our Home Groups a welcoming and accessible place?
2. How can sponsorship aid in keeping our AA meetings safe?
3. In keeping with the Traditions, how would/does my group address matters that may arise, such as:
 - a. Conduct that disrupts the meeting
 - b. Illegal activity
 - c. Inappropriate behavior towards vulnerable new members (e.g. "13 Stepping")
 - d. Emergencies (injury/accident/fire/etc.)

Safety in AA is an important topic that warrants courageous discussion at our business meetings, district meetings, and around the coffee

AA unity

By Rebecca T.
Area 16 Alternate Delegate

When I think of the First Tradition: "Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon AA unity", I think of Area 16. Along with our Area Assemblies, we have Cluster Forums and a Pre-Paid Convention.

The theme for the Conference and our Cluster Forums for 2012 is "Ano-

We well know that only by means of careful definitions and mutual respect can we constantly maintain a right and harmonious working balance.

pot. This is also one of the topics that many of the Cluster Forums will use. The presentation made at the January Assembly was one of the best I have heard on Safety in AA. If you were unable to attend and would like a copy of that CD, please contact our taper at BSereneRecording@aol.com.

A question at the Q & A session mentioned Concept Ten as it relates to the Right of Decision (Concept Three) which deserves further comment. "Each service responsibility

nymity: Our Spiritual Responsibility in the Digital Age". The Conference theme is selected by GSO through solicitations from the Fellowship. What is a Cluster Forum? Area 16 is divided into eight geographical areas – Southwest, Southeast, Northeast, Northwest, East Central, West Central, Metro and District 17. These Forums are not just for people in service. Their purpose is to provide a unique opportunity to share valuable experience, ask questions, and spark new ideas.

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should be matched by an equal service authority..." is the premise of Concept Ten. An example of this would be the AA groups themselves having final authority and responsibility on matters before the fellowship and apportioning some of their ultimate authority to the Conference and the Trustees. This frees groups do to what they do best: 12 step work, while granting the Right of Decision to the Conference and Trustees on AA policy, literature, and finance. There is a difference between ultimate authority and delegated authority and each is well defined within AA. For example, the Office Committee may spend up to \$1,000.00 without consulting the District Committee Members, but anything over \$1,000.00 must go before the DCM's for approval. Here the DCM's delegate authority to a point and then request consultation after that point. This parallel is seen throughout our service structure. One of key components is a well-defined scope and purpose of each service position. When authority is exceeded it can reviewed through our traditional Right of Participation (Concept Four) and Right of Appeal (Concept Five). "All of this is fully implied in AA's Tradition Two. Here we see the 'group conscience' as the ultimate authority and the 'trusted servant' as the delegated authority. One cannot function without the other. We well know that only by means of careful definitions and mutual respect can we constantly maintain a right and harmonious working balance."

ALTERNATE DELEGATE / alt_delegate@aageorgia.org

Also, by having the Forums in different parts of the Area, we can inspire more members to participate.

Area 16 encourages unity by having a variety of events throughout the year. Alcoholics Anonymous is a society where its members have a voice. The "Twelve and Twelve" states "The Group must survive or the individual will not". Promote your local Forum and bring someone new. I look forward to meeting you throughout the year.

'I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.'

TREASURER / treasurer@aageorgia.org

Getting active

By Don M.
Area 16 Treasurer

Sometimes I'm asked, "How can we get more of our members active and involved?" Well, perhaps we can take a page from my first sponsor, second sponsor and current sponsor. They model(ed) the behavior they expected from their sponsees. They were/are active in our group, and they asked us to get involved with them. They say things like "I'm going to this function and I'll be glad to take you with me." It was almost always said with compassion and love. They explain(ed) that this is how a sober person who cares about the future of AA acts.

We can't force someone to do what we perceive to be the right thing. Attraction rather than promotion usually wins the day. If it doesn't win this day, it may well win the next day. It appears that our mission is to carry the message. Everyone won't get it every time, but if we continue to carry it some will be inspired by our actions and strengthen their sobriety through their own actions. Our co-founder quoted another book, saying "Faith without works is dead." Maybe we can show that faith with works leads us to a better place.

BIRTHDAY CONTRIBUTIONS

District 1, Zone A
Sept. thru Dec. Birthdays
Bainbridge Group

District 3, Zone A
Susan R.
Today Group

District 3, Zone A
Dinah M. December 7, 2005
Today Group

District 3, Zone A
John D. December 8, 2006
Today Group

District 3, Zone D
Jim J. November 18, 1988
First Things First St. Simons Island Group

District 3, Zone D
Leigh N. June 1, 2010
Women's Group

District 5, Zone A
Frank McD. December 15, 2001
Garden City Group

District 5, Zone C
Shari M. December 8, 2005
Savannah Group

District 6
Leanne O. January 20, 2006

District 7, Zone A
Karen W. January 1, 2011
Living Sober Group

District 7, Zone A
Stanley P. January 11, 2011
Living Sober Group

District 8
Brookins B. December 2, 1983
Baldwin Group

District 10, Zone C
35th Anniversary
Fellowship Group

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ABOUT THIS ISSUE

It is a privilege to attend our Assembly in Macon. I enjoy having the opportunity to meet so many of our Area trusted servants and listen to any feedback, questions and concerns. Feel free to contact me with any suggestions at editor@aageorgia.org. Please be reminded that the Georgia Message is available on the website in a printer-friendly version. This publication is also translated into Spanish. Please encourage others to read the Message and learn more about our Area.

- Jane G., Editor,
Georgia Message of AA

The Georgia Message of AA is published by the Area. Its address is Georgia AA Message, P.O. Box 7325, Macon, GA, 31209 or gssa@aageorgia.org

Contributing editors include Karen F., Janie C., editor Jane G., and Communications Committee Chair Bill F and Co-Chair Chuck L. Designer: Shari M. Tamera P. and volunteers print and deliver.

Contact: editor@aageorgia.org

SEND YOUR BIRTHDAY CONTRIBUTION TO:
G.S.S.A.
P.O. BOX 7325
MACON, GA 31209

SECRETARY / secretary@aageorgia.org

Happiness in helping!

By Ernie M.
Area 16 Secretary

As evidenced by the attendance at the January Assembly, Area 16 is alive and well. The number of new trusted servants and visitors to the Assembly was outstanding. The number of persons attending the Secretary/Treasurer workshop was the largest we have seen. Thanks for making us (Don and myself) feel even more useful to the Fellowship. We, like you, know what it is to give away what we have learned.

As we go to press there will be three Cluster Forums before the May Assembly: Southeast, District 17, and West Central. Make it a point to attend to enjoy meeting new people and learn

some different ways to carry the message. If the Southwest Cluster was an example, we are in for another great year.

Remember to update your group information if there are any changes in trusted servants, and continue to send your District/Zone minutes to districtminutes@aageorgia.org. If there is anything I can do to assist your group, please contact me at secretary@aageorgia.org.

Birthday Contributions continued

District 13, Zone A
Bill M. December 15, 1993
Clean Air Group

District 13, Zone J
Norris N. November 26, 1990
Leland-Mableton Group

District 13, Zone J
Tina V. December 24, 2009
Leland-Mableton Group

District 16, Zone E
Janie C.

District 16, Zone E
Bob K November 10, 1986
Chestatee Group

CORRECTIONS / corrections@aageorgia.org

Coins for cons

By Harold W., Chair
and Jim T., Co-Chair
Area 16 Corrections Committee

The Coins for Cons Program is widely used by AA Corrections Committees throughout the United States and Canada. This idea was started in 1985 in northern California to help supply alcoholic inmates with conference-approved literature. Here in Area 16, many of our Districts/Zones have very active Coins for Cons Programs to aid their efforts in carrying the AA message of recovery into correctional facilities.

AA groups who participate in Coins for Cons in Georgia generally have a pink can or small bucket in their meetings where members can drop loose change or bills. These funds are collected and used to purchase Big Books, 12 and 12's, pamphlets, etc.,

which are distributed to the inmates in our correctional facility meetings.

The Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) is currently working on an innovative idea at their prison in Zebulon, GA. That facility will be changed from a Pre-Release Center to a treatment prison for women. The warden at that facility has asked AA to supply 200 Big Books. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to cooperate with GDC. Because we have insufficient funds for this at the Area level, Districts/Zones, groups and members were asked at the January Georgia State Service Assembly to help us reach this goal. Anyone interested in contributing may send a check to our state office in Macon, made out to GSSA. In the Memo/For space at the bottom left corner of your check, please write "Coins For Cons." The support so far has been encouraging and we thank everyone who has

contributed. Together, we can reach the still suffering alcoholic! Questions? Please call or email us at corrections@aageorgia.org.

AA groups who participate in Coins for Cons in Georgia generally have a pink can or small bucket in their meetings where members can drop loose change or bills. These funds are collected and used to purchase Big Books, 12 and 12's, pamphlets, etc., which are distributed to the inmates in our correctional facility meetings.

GRAPEVINE / grapevine@aageorgia.org

Sparking interest

By Joan M., Chair
and Joe B., Co-Chair
Area 16 Grapevine Committee

We had a great turnout at the Grapevine committee meetings. Represented were District, Group, and past Area 16 Grapevine Chairs.

I believe that as a Grapevine Representative, we are to spark an interest in the Grapevine. It is truly self-supporting, funded only through the sales of the print magazine, online subscriptions, and other related materials. Contributions to the Grapevine by individuals or groups are not accept-

ed for the support of the Grapevine. If an individual or group sends in a donation, it is put in a fund that pays for subscriptions to those incarcerated, or who simply cannot afford the magazine.

So how do I attempt to spark an interest in the Grapevine? I have a subscription and I read the magazine. I go to aagevine.org, where there is a plethora of information about the Grapevine. I try and find some tidbit to pass on that might make you go "huh!". Did you know that the Traditions and Preamble were both published first in the Grapevine? I feel a game of Grapevine Trivia coming on!

At the morning Grapevine meeting

this past Assembly, a question was raised concerning how to respond to those who don't want to subscribe to the Grapevine because of all the references to drugs in the articles. We had some discussion on the topic, but as I was doing some research for this article, I found out this debate is nothing new! It was a concern right from the get-go. Bill addressed this particular issue and wrote an article titled 'Those "Goof Balls"'. Do you know where to find this article? I invite you to read it, come to the Grapevine meeting at the May Assembly, am or pm, and participate in our discussion.

PI/CPC / pi/cpc@aageorgia.org

Energy and enthusiasm

By Ed T., Chair
and LeAnne O., Co-Chair
Area 16 Public Information/Cooperation
with the Professional Community
Committee

Wow! What a great experience this job has turned out to be. Thanks to everyone who attended the January Assembly. As I stood in front of you waiting for approval, I wondered, "has anyone ever been disapproved?" It was such a relief when the show of hands was in our favor. You good people put up with my tears as I gave my first PI/

CPC report, and then Patty had to remind me to introduce your new PI/CPC co-chair, LeAnne O. What a great co-chair she has turned out to be. She is a take-the-bull-by-the-horns kind of person. She helped out a lot at the GSSA workshop and she also did a great job with the Southwest Cluster Forum in Moultrie GA on Jan. 7. I am sure she is going to be of great help to Area 16 and me.

I would also like to thank Tom B. for doing such a wonderful job filling in for John B. of 16D. John B. had a last minute emergency come up and couldn't make it. John's crew and Tom B. gave such an educational and

enthusiastic workshop for us in Macon, both at the 11 a.m. workshop and at the 9:30 p.m. workshop. They set the bar pretty high. We will have a difficult time trying to compete with that at the next Assembly.

Leanne and I have already come up with some ideas and are looking forward to the May Assembly. We had a large number of people at this Assembly workshop and hope to see even more in May. Thank you for letting me serve.

COMMUNICATIONS / communications@aageorgia.org

In good hands

**By Bill F., Chair and
Chuck L., Co-Chair
Area 16 Communications Committee**

Hello everyone, it is a pleasure to serve on the Communications Committee. I had a great trip to the Southwest Cluster Forum in Moultrie, GA. I witnessed some wonderful presentations and skits and was served great lunch. There were lot of questions about what we are doing and sign ups for the email service. The January Georgia State Service Assembly was great. At the workshops we talked about the Website and the large amount of people using it for information about AA in Georgia. We also discussed the Message and what

a great job Jane and all her editors and translators are doing. We also received all positive feedback on the changes that have been made and the readability the GA Message has. Once again we discussed the social media, Facebook in particular, and what is being done about anonymity in the media. It was a lively discussion. I am sure there will be more of these.

We also discussed our need for translators, both for the Message and for Meetings of all types, including the Assembly and State meeting events. Please contact us if interested at communications@aageorgia.org. I witnessed the translation process first hand at the Assembly and was so impressed with how seamlessly it works. I am so fortunate to be a part of this

and so proud of not only what Communications is doing, but also all the other Committees in Area 16. We are in good hands.

Thank you for allowing me to be of Service.

NEXT MESSAGE DEADLINE

The deadline for the articles for the Message for May and June is April 1. There is no subscription fee for this newsletter, however, all contributions are appreciated. Please mail to: GSSA, P.O. Box 7325, Macon, GA 31209. The Georgia Message of AA is published by Area 16.

TREATMENT / treatment@aageorgia.org

We are responsible

**By Jimmy S., Chair and
Willie S., Co-Chair
Area 16 Treatment Committee**

What a resounding success it was for the January 2012 Georgia State Service Assembly. The first Tradition states, "Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon AA unity". Throughout the weekend, love, tolerance and unity was shared by everyone. I am grateful that I was a part of it all. Again, thank you and welcome to all the newly elected Treatment Representatives and other AA members that were present at the workshops. As always, we discussed what works

inside Treatment Facilities and what does not, how AA's can carry our message of hope and recovery. AA members in regions around the country have formed committees addressing how best to pave the way for AA members with special needs to reach and participate in AA meetings. Two years ago, the Treatment Committee was assigned that task on a trial basis. At the January 2012 Assembly, a motion was made and approved for a name change; the committee's new name will be the Treatment Special Needs/Accessibilities Committee.

After a process, it will be brought back to the floor for final approval at the September 2011 Assembly. The

information will remain the same, only the committee's name will change. I'm sure it will be supported.

Willie S. and I are willing to visit any District, Zone or Group to talk about Treatment. As you know, I'll be rotating out this year, the committee will be looking for a trusted servant to become Co-Chair to help Willie continually carry the AA message. Thank you again.

"I am responsible ...when anyone anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA to always be there, And for that, and I am responsible."

ARCHIVES / archives@aageorgia.org

Preserving history

**By Claudia S., Chair and
John B., Co-Chair
Area 16 Archives Committee**

Meet our new Area 16 Archives Co-Chair, John B. John has been a historian by passion, most of his life. Last year, John attended the International Archives workshop in Macon, at the Georgia State Service Assembly office, where the Georgia State AA archives are kept. This workshop threw a torch on John's passion for preserving history. Since that workshop, John has been steadily volunteering, cataloging, organizing, and researching at the state AA archives room. He also helped James put together the Archives budget for

this year. These items will help us to preserve some of the current books, magazines, pictures and other items in the archives room. An example is something as simple as wax string. After carefully removing staples with a special tool, the staples are replaced with waxed strings that won't rust.

Looking forward, we also hope to start digitizing cassettes and reel-to-reel tapes. We have found a machine that will digitize the cassettes, but have yet to find an affordable way to digitize the reel-to-reels. Most of these tapes are decades old and need to be saved before it is too late. John has logged all of them.

Also, at the January Assembly a vote was passed to update the book "We Share". The Archives Committee is

looking forward to working with the State Committee in order to update this book. We have been talking about this for the past year and are anxious to get the ball rolling. At the January workshop, we had two committee members practice a live "old timers" interview. We hope this will inspire members to start interviewing "old timers" in their District for the book and for their own District archives.

When you see John, please welcome him and his service.

CALENDAR

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

**March 9-12
Flint River Round Up**
Albany

**March 24
District 17 Forum (Espanol)**
Forest Park

**April 14
DCM Pre-Conference Meeting**
11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Macon / Marriott City Center

**April 22-28
62nd General Service
Conference**
New York

**April 28
West Central Cluster Forum**
McDonough – Includes
(6,7A,7B,10A,10C,10D,11C)

NEW GROUPS

District 7A
Turning Point Group
Centenary UMC Community
Center
1235 Ash St., Macon, GA 31201
Meets on Sunday at 6:00 p.m.
open meeting

District 13 Zone B
The Steps We Take Group
Cathedral of Christ the King
2699 Peachtree Rd., N.E., At-
lanta, GA 30305
Meets on Wednesday at 7:00
p.m.

District 13 Zone D
Garden Variety Group
651 Garden Walk Dr.
Stone Mountain, GA 30083
Meets on Friday at 8:00 p.m.
open meeting

District 14 Zone C
Wednesday Night Wisdom
Group
Studio 121
121 Brown St., Canton, GA
30114
Meets on Wednesday at
6:00 p.m.

District 14 Zone C
Stepping Stones Group
Focus Building
100 Hickory Cr., Holly Springs,
GA
Meets on Friday at 7:00 p.m.
closed

District 16 Zone B
Mars Hill Group
Faith Presbyterian Church
2191 Mars Hill Rd., Watkins-
ville, GA, 30677
Meets on Thursday at 8:00
p.m.

District 16 Zone D
McKendree Group
1570 Lawrenceville/Suwanee
Rd.
Lawrenceville, GA 30043
Meets on Wednesday at
6:30 p.m. open meeting

District 17
Grupo Buena Voluntad
109 Towne Lake Pkwy,
Woodstock, GA 30188
Meets on Monday and
Wednesday at 8:00 p.m.
open meeting

District 17
Grupo De Carrollton
Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Catholic Church
210 Old Center Point Rd.,
Carrollton, GA 30117
Meets on Saturday at 6:00
p.m. open meeting

**THINGS WE CANNOT
CHANGE**

Gary H.
Sobriety Date: November 25,
1991
Passed: December 28, 2011
Home Group: Lakeland
Group
Cumming, Georgia

**MARRIOTT MACON
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 GEORGIA
STATE SERVICE
ASSEMBLY, TO GET THE
GROUP RATE. ALSO
REMEMBER PRIOR TO
ASSEMBLY CUT-OFF
DATE IS MAY 4, 2012
FOR GROUP RATE.**

**SUGGESTED
SELF-SUPPORT PLAN**

Our fellowship must be self-supporting. We offer a suggested support plan for the GSRs to share with their groups. By being self-supporting, we can fully discharge our responsibilities to our beautiful fellowship in Georgia.

In those Districts and Zones where there is no central office, we suggest that the income, after all group expenses have been paid, be allocated as follows:
State Office, Macon – 50%
GSO – 30%
Pre-Paid Convention- 10%
District/Zone – 10%

In Atlanta, Augusta and any other District/Zone which supports a central office, we suggest that the income, after all group expenses have been paid, be allocated as follows:
Central Office – 35%
State Office, Macon – 30%
GSO – 20%
Pre-Paid Convention – 10%
District/Zone – 5%
or whatever percentages are in accordance with your group conscience.

Mailing addresses:
G.S.S.A. (State office)
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.

HOW TO CONTACT TRUSTED SERVANTS

To preserve anonymity, the Georgia Message of AA does not contain personal phone numbers, personal e-mail addresses or the password to log into protected information on www.aageorgia.org. Here are some tips on how to reach trusted servants:

- A. Use the official email addresses for Area 16 trusted servants located on articles, in our service directory and on aageorgia.org.
- B. 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.

C. The password to access password-protected web content can be obtained from the service directory, your GSR, your DCM, webmaster@aageorgia.org, the Area office in Macon or other trusted servants. Please provide any feedback to communications@aageorgia.org or editor@aageorgia.org

Go to aageorgia.org or call 478-745-2588 for information

ASSEMBLY MINUTES

(Area 16)
 Assembly
 Weekend

Marriott Macon City
 Center, Macon,
 Jan. 22, 2012

Patty L., Area 16 Chairperson, opened the business session of the Area 16 Service Assembly with the Serenity Prayer. The meeting was opened at 9:05 a.m.

Delegate Report – Tom H.

I am an alcoholic and my name is Tom. It is a privilege to serve you as your Delegate and I thank you for the opportunity. I want to take a minute to describe the role of Delegate and how it fits in the service structure for those in attendance who may not know.

As your Delegate I take the voice and vote of our Area to an annual conference in New York with 82 other Delegates from the United States and Canada. North America is divided into Areas much like our state is divided into districts. Just like each GSR in attendance is part of a District, I, as your Delegate, represent our Area that is known as Area 16.

Your group has a voice and a vote that you bring to our Assembly and I am privileged to bring that collective voice and vote to the General Service Conference. Each Delegate is assigned to a committee that is called a conference committee, and these committees consist of things like Literature, Corrections, Grapevine, etc., much like you see in our Area Committees.

I was selected to serve on the trustees' conference committee. My main role will be on the trustees' conference committee though I will also have a voice and vote on all matters before the General Service Conference. My official title is a Panel 62 Delegate for Area 16 Georgia. Panel 62 simple represents the year of the conference. This year will be the 62nd time the conference has met. Since I serve a two year term, you next Delegate will be Panel 64 Delegate.

The General Service Conference was formed by Bill Wilson to be his successor. When the Conference was formed in 1950, AA became ours – yours and

mine. Before there was a General Service Conference, Bill and Bob were the voice of our fellowship.

Since that time any literature or books that have been written have come from suggestions by the fellowship and then undergo an approval process, similar to the approval process your home group uses to make changes, known as group conscience. In this case, the approval process comes from the Delegates selected to serve their respective Areas. This process however is rather stringent and is commonly known as "conference approved."

When you see new literature, videos, public service announcements, literature translations, etc., they have been requested from our fellowship here and from other countries. These are things we have requested, passed group conscience test and the conference committees discusses them, makes suggestions and/or changes, and the trustees committees implement the ideas. To every conference committee there is a trustees committee.

That is in a nutshell, the explanation of the role of Delegate. I will attend the General Service Conference on your behalf for one week each year. And the rest of the year most of my obligations will be to this Assembly, Districts, and Groups. I am here to serve you on any and all service related needs as are all the Area trusted servants. We are at your disposal, please use us as you see fit.

So, I am your Panel 62 Area 16 Delegate. There is another 62 with which we are all more familiar and that is Rule 62. And what is Rule 62? All at once. Yes, don't take yourself so seriously. I still have a hard time understanding why my first sponsor would often tell me that I was the most serious guy in the room! Certainly I tend to be too serious though I prefer to think of it as a passion for AA. I see that the same passion in our Area is reflected here today in participation. For those that are new you may not know that our Area, Area 16, is consistently one of the top Areas for participation and contributions. I hope that you are as proud to serve this Area as I am. I want to thank you for taking time out of your busy lives to be here today.

Since I have not yet been to the General Service Conference, there is not much for me to report back to you. I know you all were hope full for an hour-long report, but this morning I will keep it brief.

One of the most exciting things hap-

pening is that AAWS has launched an eReader application available on some smart phones, iPads, etc., called eBooks. You can download this app on your device and then purchase books at aa.org. Available right now is the Big Book, the 12 & 12, and "Language of the Heart." For those that enjoy the Daily Reflections book, there is a possible plan for this to be available on GSO's website. This might include a daily email with the reflection on the day. The Spirituality and Armed Forces pamphlets are under final review and we should see them soon.

There is strong need for men to correspond with men who are incarcerated. Please contact our Area Corrections Committee – Harold and Jim please stand and wave your arms frantically. You may also reach them corrections@ageorgia.org. You can email GSO and corrections@aa.org for more information.

Lastly, many of you have been wondering about the 2015 International Convention. Please do not contact GSO about registration or housing. In September 2014, registrations flyers, including housing form will be mailed to all registered groups. If you want to stay up on the latest information on this convention and the happenings within AA make sure your home group receives Box 459.

Any questions? You may email me at delegate@ageorgia.org. Please drive safely on your way home.

The business meeting opened at 9:20am.

BUSINESS MEETING

Final Report of the 58th Prepaid Convention – Gainesville, GA – 2011- Rebecca T.

The 2011 Prepaid Convention was held at the Georgia Mountain Center, Gainesville, GA., on Oct. 20-23, 2011. Rebecca thanked District 16E for allowing her to chair convention with numerous volunteers from 16D & 16C. Final registration was 1,331 with 1,149 attending. The convention received \$39,000 from Area. Cost was \$33,884.81 and \$5837.69 was returned to the Area.

Report of the 59th Prepaid Convention-Calloway Gardens – 2012

Debbie (Chairperson) shared that all is proceeding well. Thank you to 58th for help given. Please pre-register and make room reservations early as this will help with the cost of the Convention. The room rate is \$99 per night with availability for 3 days before and after the convention. Call 706-663-2281 (Calloway Gardens) and use 59th Prepaid Convention for Group Rate. Staying at Calloway Gardens gets you a pass

ASSEMBLY MINUTES / continued from page 6

for the Gardens. The agenda includes poker-run, tennis, and fishing. Picnic at the beach area Saturday afternoon (pre-paid tickets to be available) with a speaker. May attend for speaker only without ticket. Spanish meetings, young people meetings, and Alanon meetings also will be available. Registration forms are available on Area website.

Secretary Report - Ernie M.

Before attendance report, Ernie wanted to answer a question he received Saturday at the "Ask-It-Basket." Question: Is it possible to make online meetings accessible through the Area Website (ageorgia.org)? After talking with the Web Committee it is noted that the online meetings are not conference approved meetings and that the Area website can only connect with AA World Services Inc., and the Grapevine/Lavina. You may connect with online meetings, but not through our Website.

Attendance report for the January Assembly:

DCMs	48
Alt DCMs	31
District Secretary/Treasurer	13
GSRs	247
Alt GSRs	70
Group Secretary/Treasurers	30
Grapevine Reps	11
Treatment Facility Reps	5
Correctional Facility Reps	15
Communications	3
PI/CPC Reps	12
Archives Reps	10
Members	75
Total Attendance	570

Ernie reminded DCMs and Alternates that he was still updating emails addresses. If they did not have an email address, please submit their respective District/Zone Secretary's email for faster dissemination of information from GSSA. Please submit any group/district/zone information directly to the Area Office. Forms are available at ageorgia.org.

Treasurer Report – Don M.

Don came with good news and some not so good news. We were not fully self-supporting though 2011. Please review your financial statements given to the DCMs yesterday. 65% of the Area Groups contributed to GSSA and 48% contributed to the Prepaid Convention.

If every group had contributed just \$1 per member more last year to GSSA we would have had a surplus. Don recognized 13D, 12A, 11B, 11A, 10C, and 5B as having 100% of groups in their District/Zone contribute to GSSA and

5A and 5C as having 100% of groups contributing to both GSSA and Prepaid Convention. It is not the amount contributed as the idea that each group contributed.

The cost per individual for this Assembly is \$21.82 and with that Don read the "Green Card" and the baskets were passed. Patty took this time to recognize past Area trusted servants and to give special thanks to Tamara P., our office manager and her staff of volunteers who set up and make this Assembly possible.

Alternate Delegate Report – Rebecca T.

We have had one Cluster Forum this year – Southwest Cluster with 165 in attendance. The next Cluster Forum will be on Feb. 18 (Southeast) on St Simons, and the Spanish Cluster (District 17) on March 24. The DCM Pre-Conference meeting with the Delegate will be in April 14 (at the Marriott Hotel, 11 a.m. -3 p.m.) and the West Central Cluster on April 28 in McDonough. See flyers in upcoming message.

Old Business:

1. Approval of minutes from the Sep.18, 2011 business meeting as printed in the November/December 2011 Message. Motion made by John L., GSR, Milledgeville Group, District 8, and seconded by Amy S., GSR, Serenity by the River Group, District 16C, to approve minutes as published. Unanimously approved.
2. Report from Ad Hoc Committee on "We Share."

The Ad Hoc Committee was tasked to research the cost and logistics of updating the book on the History of Georgia AA. Chair: Chandler B., 16A, members: Mike B., 10A, Michael B., 2D, Claudia S., Archives, Julia H. 13B.

The committee recommendations are: Put the book in digital format on the Website so groups could update info and new groups could be added.

Form "Georgia History Committee" to manage project and publish it into print. The book is to be self-supporting. Discussion followed. Previous edition of "We Share" was self-supporting (with a profit made) and could be again. Editing was done by volunteers with experience from within GSSA to avoid additional cost.

Motion to call question by John, GSR, after 5 group, and seconded by Sean, GSR Terrain Group. Patty read original motion: "Area 16 update and make available to members the book – "We Share Our Georgia Experience Book." Patty asked for show of hands. Plurality prevailed with 2 negative votes. A minority opinion was asked for and an

individual voting no asked that motion be tabled as he felt more information was needed. Motion passed.

New Business:

1. Approval of new chairs and co-chairs of Area committees: Patty presented to Assembly – Joan M. & Joe B. – chair and co-chair – Grapevine Committee
Ed T. & LeAnn O. – chair and co-chair – Public Information Committee
Bill F. & Chuck L. – chair and co-chair – Communications Committee
Claudia S. & John B. – chair and co-chair- Archives Committee
By show of hands all were unanimously approved.

2. Per page 31 of the Georgia Service Manual bids were received from 2 districts for the GA Prepaid State Convention to be held in October 2014. Both bids included the information needed as outlined in the manual.

a. District 6 as represented by Bob W., Alt DCM, presented a bid to host the convention in Columbus, GA

b. District 3 as represented by Mike B., DCM presented a bid to host the convention on Jekyll Island, GA..

3. Motion made to add Special Needs Accessibilities Service Committee to the Area Treatment Committee and change the name and description in the Area Manual. The name would be consistent with the General Service Conference committee, Treatment/Special Needs Accessibilities.

Patty went on to explain that the Treatment Committee had taken on this function to check feasibility of combining the two committees within Area 16. After two years of working with it our Treatment Committee felt that it would not be a problem.

Motion made by David G., GSR, Dallas Group, 14D, and was seconded by Sherri, GSR, Martinez Group. Since this is a manual change the motion is tabled (page 11 of GA AA Service Manual). Our Delegate will appoint an ad hoc committee to report back to the Assembly in May. Please take back to you groups for discussion in May and a final vote to change the manual will take place at the September Assembly.

General Sharing: Open Mike:

Before open mike began, Patty explained that the motion for the "We Share" book will be presented to the Office Committee for further action. As events proceed, the Assembly will be given report on progress.

Continued in Insert

59th Georgia State Prepaid Convention

Anonymity: Our Spiritual Responsibility in the Digital age

Where: Beautiful Callaway Gardens in Pine Mountain, Ga.

When: October 18th-21st, 2012

Event Speakers

Tommie D Oakland Park FL.
Scott L Nashville TN.
Jane H Tallahassee FL.
Dick S Marietta GA.
Wallace B Sanford NC.
Charlie C LA.
Deb H New Orleans LA.

Event Activities

Golf Tournament*
4th Step Workshop
Poker Run
Comedian
Dancing
Fishing*
Picnic*
Tennis*

*Note: Some Activities Require a fee

Lodging

Mountain Creek Inn \$99 p/night*

Mountain Creek Inn Junior Suite \$99 p/night*

1 Bdrm Cottage \$160 p/night*

2 Bdrm Cottages \$320 p/night*

Villa Bdrm \$180 p/night*

*Includes free pass to Callaway Gardens, included in block rate.

Please check www.pinemountain.org for more lodging and camping info.

IMPORTANT: Reserve rooms by Sept. 18, 2012 and specify 59th Georgia Prepaid Convention to guarantee block rate.

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

NOTE: Out of State registration fee AA & Alanon \$25.00 Alateen \$10.00 (Due at Registration) Payable to:

59th GA State Prepaid Convention... Mail form to 59th Prepaid Convention P.O. Box 544 Sharpsburg, GA 30277

Name on Badge: _____ Home Group: _____

Please check affiliation AA Alanon Alateen

Want to volunteer? Should we contact you by phone _____ or by email address above ___?

Please check activities you will participate in: Golf Fishing Tennis Picnic Poker Run

Any special needs? Wheel chair Sight Hearing Other _____

See state website www.aageorgia.org for online registration & printable form
For more info email us at 59thprepaid@aageorgia.org

1. Mark G., Henry County Group invited all to the West Central Cluster Forum on April 28 and also wanted to let Assembly know that they lost "little Kenny" this past year and that he was a walking 12 step for that county.

2. Alan M., 13 F., Living Sober Group – for Treasurer – What is the item on page 3 dealing with "bad debt" expense. Don explained that this was for literature sent to groups that we were unable to collect payment for. (This was total amount over the past three years that our accountant instructed us to take.)

3. Jason: D16 C&D will be hosting the Unity Weekend Feb 17 and 18. Flyers available at gwinetteaa.org.

4. Bobbie, Alt GSR, Primary Group. Question why Chairperson did not ask if anyone voting in affirmative on "We Share" motion wished to change their vote after minority opinion given or was it because the motion passed. Patty explained oversight and asked if anyone voting in the affirmative would like to change his vote at this time. No one came forward to change vote, so motion stands as passed. Thank you for the correction.

5. Tom B. (Web Administrator): Commented on the new Website that began in November and asked all GSRs to visit the Website and check their group information (days, time, type of meeting, etc..) to be sure information is correct. The committee has received a lot of input from Tamera – please check that it has been put in correctly.

6. John H., GCYPAA advisory council wished to thank Area 16 for its support. Their 21st conference will be in Albany in June.

7. Kara, Secretary, 16C announced new women's workshop March 8-10. in Tacoa's Camp Michael sponsored by GALS. Flyer on gwinetteaa.org.

8. Javier, DCM District 17, invited everyone to the Spanish Cluster Forum on March 24 in Forrest Park, GA.

9. Diane M., inviting all to the Clarkston Group Traditions monthly workshop.

10. Betsy letting GSSA know that Georgia will be bidding for the SECYPAA in 2014.

11. Mark, GSR with questions on map of metro area. Patty advised that there is verbal description available online and Art H. will help with questions.

12. Sean, from Prepaid Convention reminded people the online registration is available for 2012 convention and form can be printed out.

13. District 16C, archivist will be hosting a workshop on how to interview old timers for their stories.

With no further business:

- John F., GSR, 14C Motion to Adjourn
- Sean, GSR, Terrain Group Sec-
onded Motion

Unanimously Approved. Meeting ended at 11:00am with the Lord's Prayer both in English and Spanish.

CALL FOR TRANSLATORS:

Are you a member who speaks and/or writes both English and Spanish? Area 16 needs your help for translation of the Message and verbal translation at our Assemblies. Please email communications@adageorgia.org if you can help.