

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

## Spirit of rotation

By Patty L.  
Area 16 Delegate

In the spirit of rotation, it's time for me to hand off to our new Area Delegate, Tom H. I am excited for Tom and Rebecca and the journey ahead of them. If you haven't heard, Tom H., our current Alternate Delegate was elected Delegate and Rebecca T., was elected Alternate Delegate at our Georgia State Service Assembly in September. I remain very grateful for the opportunity to serve Alcoholics Anonymous in this capacity. During our Assembly, a motion was made to update the Georgia Alcoholics Anonymous history book, *We Share*. It was tabled and an ad hoc committee will be appointed to study the costs and logistics of updating the book. A report will be presented at the January Assembly. It is prudent for us to be very thoughtful about undertaking such a large and important initiative. We also talked about our Spanish speaking trusted servants and our need to improve communication with District 17 (Spanish linguistic District). We have another ad hoc committee looking at this need. Both of these topics are included in this

Message's Assembly minutes. Considering Concepts XI and XII, I am always impressed with our Area's Group conscience on matters of importance and the guidelines developed by those that came before us. We practice the spirit of both of these Concepts on a regular basis. Concept XI includes principles such as fairly compensating our paid workers, rotation and participation. We do have a paid worker as our Office Manager for the Area Office. We make sure that the position is paid fairly for the skills required and the responsibilities it includes. Concept XII includes the General Warranties of the Conference. The first sentence states "the Conference shall observe the spirit of the AA Tradition". This also applies to our Area. The Warranties include principles that apply to our Area as well. Refer to the Concept Checklist excerpt below to address questions that will lead to a better understanding of these two Concepts. Concept XI: The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.

Confidential for members  
November / December 2011  
Volume 45, Numbers 11-12

- Do we understand how the roles of non-trustee directors and non-trustee appointed committee members help serve and strengthen the committee system?
  - How do we encourage our special paid workers to exercise their traditional "Right of Participation?"
  - Do we practice rotation in all our service positions?
- Concept XII: The Conference shall observe the spirit of AA tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government, and that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.
- How do we guard against becoming a "seat of perilous wealth or power?"
  - How do we practice prudent use
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ALTERNATE DELEGATE / [alt\\_delegate@aageorgia.org](mailto:alt_delegate@aageorgia.org)

## Gratitude in action

By Tom H.  
Area 16 Alternate Delegate

I am deeply touched by your vote of confidence which allows me to serve as your Delegate for the next two years. It is an honor to give back to the program that saved all of our lives. When I was first asked to serve as a GSR for my home group many years ago I did not realize at that time the importance of my groups voice, through me, to the Area, and ultimately all the way up to the General Service Conference. And now, in Bill W.'s vision of the importance and role of the conference to AA, I am asked to carry your groups' voice to the annual conference. Words cannot describe how grateful I am to be sober or how blessed I am that I get

to do this for one of the most active Areas in North America. That I am drawn to give back to AA in General Service is truly a privilege, not a job. I extend an enormous 'thank you' to all of you that show up to your Home Group, District, and Assembly meetings to further the message of AA. The benefit of which is many lives saved. I also wanted to congratulate Rebecca T. on her election to Alt. Delegate. Rebecca has done a tremendous job whenever she has been asked to serve and there is no doubt in my mind that she will continue to do so. To the many qualified candidates standing thank you for your willingness to stand – all of you in some way has touched my life. I cannot say enough about David S. who is rotating out of the Office Committee. David has been a source

of great wisdom and stability, an example of how I wish to be, and on a personal note he has been my friend. I wish there were more like David. Patty L. has created two very exciting and important Ad Hoc Committees. One of these committees will seek ways to improve our communications with the Spanish speaking members of our program. Imagine for a moment that you were unable to read this newsletter or that the Assembly was in a language you didn't understand or even that you had a drinking problem and no one at the meeting spoke your language. While this committees focus will be to improve communications with the Spanish speaking community on a service related level I already see it's affects in improved communications among Intergroups.

**Continued on Page 4**

"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](mailto:treasurer@aageorgia.org)**

## A gift without strings

By Don M.  
Area 16 Treasurer

I just observed a significant AA anniversary that caused me to spend some time reflecting. There's nothing in my life to suggest that I deserve recovery. It is a gift given to me without strings attached. All I have to do to continue living this blessed existence is to follow some suggestions. It is also helpful for me to stay in touch with the Fellowship.

Just last week at my Home Group, I heard a relative newcomer (less than six months) say that his life has never been better. He's right, but he has just begun to see the blessings that accrue over time. I came to AA looking for relief; I found much more.

We are fortunate to have this program of recovery. We have a responsibility to assure that it's available when the next person arrives. Thank you for your dedication to Alcoholics Anonymous.

## BIRTHDAY CONTRIBUTIONS

**District 3, Zone A**  
Heathie M. July 7, 2006  
Today Group

**District 5, Zone C**  
Jane H. October 23, 2007  
New Women's Group

**District 10, Zone B**  
Anita 9 Years  
Douglas Co. Group

**District 10, Zone E**  
Don B. July 25, 1995  
Carrollton Friday Night Group

**District 13, Zone A**  
Betty L. January 3, 2000  
Sober Sisters Group

**District 13, Zone G**  
Art H. August 11, 1998  
Mt Vernon Group

**District 13, Zone J**  
Tom H. June 10, 1988  
Gem City Group

**District 14, Zone A**  
Tom L. July 7, 2008  
Rome Group

**District 14, Zone B**  
Winn F. July 1988  
Karen P. June 2008  
Cartersville Closed Disc. Group

**District 15, Zone A**  
Randy B. September 9, 1994  
Summerville AA Group

**District 16, Zone A**  
Ron G. June 14, 1986  
Toccoa Fellowship Group

**District 16, Zone B**  
Randy P. 20 Years  
Alumni Group

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## ABOUT THIS ISSUE

We shall be with you in the Fellowship of the Spirit, and you will surely meet some of us as you trudge the Road of Happy Destiny. May God bless you and keep you – until then." (Alcoholics Anonymous, Page 164). The Editorial Team and the Communications Committee sends their wishes for a very happy, joyful and peaceful holiday season ...to each and every one of you! One day at a time. - Jane H., Editor, Georgia Message of AA

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Contributing editors include Karen F., Janie C., editor Jane H., and Communications Committee Chair Shari M. and Co-Chair Bill F. Tamera P. and volunteers print and deliver. Contact: [editor@aageorgia.org](mailto:editor@aageorgia.org)

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

**SECRETARY / [secretary@aageorgia.org](mailto:secretary@aageorgia.org)**

## Are we responsible?

By Emie M.  
Area 16 Secretary

In my September Report at the Georgia State Service Assembly, I noted that we (Area 16) have 52 groups that won't be carried in the General Service Organization (GSO) Regional Directory for 2011/2012. That's 107 meetings that new visitors to our area won't be able to locate. Your District Committee Members (DCMs) have been given a packet containing all the listed groups for their specific District/Zone.

Please be sure to update your group forms so they can be brought to the DCM Planning Meeting in Macon on Nov 12, 2011. Be sure group information includes: correct mailing ad-

dress for Group, contact person with telephone number along with their permission to be printed in the GSO Directory. The contact person does not have to be the GSR. For our Area Directory, we still need the General Service Representative (GSR) name. If there isn't a GSR, please send in a contact name and phone number. If your group is no longer a group and has been declared a meeting, it will not be published in any directory. If it is an inactive group, it also will be removed from the directory. I also ask that each District/Zone to include the e-mail addresses for the DCMs and Alternate DCMs. Tamera now has the ability to go on line directly with GSO to enter changes and updates as they are made. Updates can be accepted as they occur.

Congratulations to our newly elected Delegate, Tom H. and Alternate Delegate, Rebecca T. I am looking forward to serving with them during 2012. The Office Committee will miss the service guidance that David S. has provided during the last 2 years. David M. now assumes those duties. In January, Patty L. moves into the position of Area Assembly Chairperson. Please continue to send your District/Zone minutes to: [districtminutes@aageorgia.org](mailto:districtminutes@aageorgia.org).

I wish all of our fellowship the happiest of holidays and am looking forward to seeing some new faces in January. If there is anything I can assist your group with, please contact me at [secretary@aageorgia.org](mailto:secretary@aageorgia.org).

**CORRECTIONS / corrections@aageorgia.org**

## Corrections correspondence

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

Perhaps one of the most rewarding and rarely mentioned forms of Twelfth Step work is our Corrections Correspondence Service (CCS). This is a program that is coordinated by the General Service Office to allow outside AA members to correspond with our fellow alcoholics who are incarcerated and have no other way to find sobriety. Those who have participated in this program have found sharing with inmates to be a

very gratifying form of Twelfth Step work.

The process begins when an inmate somewhere in the U.S. or Canada writes to the General Service Office and requests to correspond with an outside AA member. GSO then matches up inmates with our volunteers by sending the inmates' contact information to the outside AA. Next, the AA volunteer contacts the inmate by mail, usually starting with an introductory letter. Something to remember is that men correspond with men and women correspond with women. The outside AA member must use his or her full name on all correspondence because it is a require-

ment of most correctional facilities. Most correspondents use their home address since GSO matches them up with inmates who are located in different regions, however some choose to use their group or District/Zone P.O. Box.

We urge you to obtain a copy of the pamphlet "Corrections Correspondence - a special kind of AA Service" (F-26) which is available at local meetings and on our website, aageorgia.org. Please consider filling one out today. We hope everyone has a very happy and safe holiday season, and we look forward to seeing you at the Georgia State Service Assembly in January.

**GRAPEVINE / grapevine@aageorgia.org**

## New publications

By Mary A., Chair  
Area 16 Grapevine Committee

This is my last article for the Area 16 Message. It has been a pleasure to serve as Area 16's AA Grapevine Chairperson. Joan M. is the new Grapevine Co-Chair and will be rotating in as Chairperson in January.

The Grapevine committee is asking Area 16 members to assist with com-

pleting the collection of Grapevines we currently have in the archives. A complete list of the missing editions is available at: aageorgia.org/grapevine. Please spread the word and make the list available to your home group and district. If you donate a magazine to the archives, please make sure the Area knows whom the donation is from. You can send these directly to the Area office.

The Grapevine has published two new books: Step by Step: members

share how they have found a new way of life by working the twelve steps and Emotional Sobriety II: members offer insight into how they have discovered emotional sobriety.

Also you can now purchase the Pocket Planner and the Wall Calendar. You can purchase these items at the Area Assembly and online at www.aagrapevine.org.

Hope to see you at the Georgia State Pre-Paid Convention.

**PI/CPC / pi/cpc@aageorgia.org**

## Fellowship and service

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

What an emotional Assembly we had this year. Davis S. rotating out and Patty finishing up her term as Delegate, both having done such an excellent job. It will be hard to fill their shoes. Congratulations to Tom and Rebecca as well, and a "Thank You!" to the rest of the nominees who stood for Delegate.

I personally want to thank you for the

opportunity to stand for Delegate. It would have been nice to win, place or show, but to have been asked to stand is a long way from where this ole girl came from. I agree with David S. when he said, "AA in Area 16 is in good hands". So is your PI/CPC Committee, as Ed T. rotates in as your new Chair in January. I've heard that he has already planned an exciting workshop. We've shared a lot of good information with each other and brainstormed about solutions for issues in our area. Some of these include developing talks, AA Orientation for Drug Courts, using our letters to make initial contact, attending conferences

and health fairs, and speaking at various civic organizations. It has been rewarding to serve as your Chair.

We had the Teachers' Conference this October in Atlanta, and the State Convention in Gainesville. Finally, we will participate in the November DCM workshop. We have been invited back to The National Drug Court Conference held in Atlanta around June of 2012 and the SE School of Addiction Studies at the end of August 2012. The latter is in Savannah, so there are plenty of service opportunities for you to sign up for. It has been my privilege to serve the PI/CPC Committee and Area 16. Thank you so much.

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of our Seventh Tradition contributions and literature revenue?

- Do we insure the spiritual liberties of all AA members by not placing any member in the position of absolute authority over others?
- Do we try to reach important decisions by thorough discussion, vote and, where

possible, substantial unanimity?

- As guardians of AA's traditions, are we ever justified in being personally punitive?
- Are we careful to avoid public controversy?
- Do we always try to treat each other with mutual respect and love?

This is my final GA AA Message article. Please support Tom and Rebecca in their new roles as you have me. I thank you for all of the words of encouragement and support over the years.

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

## Hablas Espanol?

By Shari M., Chair and  
Bill F., Co-Chair  
Area 16 Communications Committee

**G**reetings! It was such a pleasure to see each and every one of you at the Georgia State Service Assembly last month. Even though it is such a busy weekend, I always take a moment to sit back and reflect on all the love I feel for my fellow alcoholics.

The Communications Committee is seeking bilingual volunteers who speak and/or write both English and Spanish. We need assistance in translating the Georgia Message of AA and also we need spoken translators for the Assemblies and other Area-wide events. Our primary purpose is to help the alcoholic who still suffers, and that should include all alcoholics

in our Area, regardless of where they are from and what language they speak. For a variety of reasons, our translation in the past year has been spotty at best, and we really want to offer translation to our Spanish-speaking members reliably and consistently. This is where you come in! Please pass the word along that the Area is looking for translators. I have to share a funny story. I have a new sponsee that I have known for a few years, but I only recently started working with her. I went to her house one day, and her whole family was speaking Spanish, my sponsee included! She doesn't speak with an accent and I guess it just never came up that she was bilingual. But I learned my lesson, we never know what hidden skills our members have until we ask, so speak up and help us get the word out.

Also, the updated Area 16 website will be launching October 23. It will be at the same web address as the existing site, so please check it out and feel free to send any feedback to me or our Webmaster ([webmaster@aageorgia.org](mailto:webmaster@aageorgia.org)). This is my last Message article as Communications Chair, I thank each and every one of you for allowing me to serve.

### NEXT MESSAGE DEADLINE

The deadline for the articles for the Message for January and February is December 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](mailto:treatment@aageorgia.org)**

## We are responsible

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

**W**hat a wonderful Assembly that was held in September at the Macon Marriott City Center. There was the spirit of rotation for the Delegate and Alternate Delegate positions. Congratulations to the new incoming Area 16 Delegate and Alternate Delegate. Also, thank you to the outgoing Area 16 Delegate for your dedication, leadership and hard work. At both Treatment Workshops, we heard from the existing and new

Treatment representatives as to what works and what does not work. The Committee would also like to thank all AA members who are carrying the AA Message into Treatment Setting.

Everyone should be aware by now that we have a new name change, the old Treatment Facilities Committee are now the "Treatment Special Needs/ Accessibilities Committee". Also there is a new Pamphlet (P-83) "AA for the Alcoholic with Special Needs". And there has been a change from "Treatment Facilities" Workbook and Kit to "Treatment Committee Workbook" and "Treatment Committee Kit".

In addition, please be sure to look for the "AA Guidelines on Treatment Committee" instead of the "AA Guidelines on Treatment Facilities Committee". There will also be new sample Temporary Contact Forms; one for the AA volunteer and one for the alcoholic requesting the temporary contact to help them to AA on the outside. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact myself or Willie S.

**ARCHIVES / [archives@aageorgia.org](mailto:archives@aageorgia.org)**

## Loving enemies

By James H., Chair and  
Claudia S., Co-Chair  
Area 16 Archives Committee

**S**hould we have enemies? Doesn't following the God of your understanding produce peace and goodwill? Yes! But! The God of my understanding had enemies. They even killed his moral form. Once he declared, I came not to bring peace but a sword. Another time he warned me,

woe unto you when all men speak well of you. I would imagine a person who seeks God will make enemies of those who prefer the darkness. He made that quiet clear to me. I wish to do all the good I can  
By all the means I can  
In all the ways I can  
In all the places I can  
At all the times I can  
To all the people I can  
As long as ever I can  
The God of my understanding is a

perfect example of patience and suffering. I can't wait to meet him. I think by being humble we resist temptations. Let's also not forget that unchecked vengeance multiplies sorrows.

I guess what I'm trying to say is let's be tactful with what seem to be our enemies. Sometimes they turn out to be our best assets. I love each and every one of you very much. Everybody have fun as the holiday season approaches!

**ALTERNATE DELEGATE / continued from page 1**

etc. The second Ad Hoc committee will be focused on updating a book called 'We Share' which is a history book about Georgia AA. Accurate

recording of our history is an important endeavor. I am very excited to watch both of these projects in the coming years.

The last Cluster Forum of the year will be held in Sandy Springs on November 5th. There is a flyer for this event in this Message.

**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.

**Oct 20-23**  
58th Georgia Pre-Paid Convention  
Gainesville

**Nov 5**  
Metro Cluster Forum  
Sandy Springs

**Nov 10-13**  
32nd Annual Chattahoochee Forest Conference  
Unicoi State Park in Helen, GA

**Nov 12**  
DCM Planning Meeting  
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Macon/GSSA

**Jan 20-22**  
Georgia AA Service Assembly  
Macon / Marriott Convention Center

**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@aageorgia.org](mailto:communications@aageorgia.org) if you can help.

**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](http://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](http://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](mailto:webmaster@aageorgia.org), the Area office in Macon or other trusted servants. Please provide any feedback to [communications@aageorgia.org](mailto:communications@aageorgia.org) or [editor@aageorgia.org](mailto:editor@aageorgia.org)

**NEW GROUPS**

**District 10 Zone B**  
West Cobb Serenity Session Group  
West Cobb Church - Modular  
1255 Friendship Church Rd., Powder Springs, GA 30127  
Meets on Sunday at 7:30 p.m.

**District 13 Zone F**  
Stepping Up To Life Group  
Tara Club  
575 N. Central Ave. S.W., Hapeville, GA 30354  
Meets on Thursday at 5:30 p.m. closed discussion

**District 16 Zone B**  
The James Gang Group  
2001 Cherry Dr., Braselton, GA 30517  
Meets on Thursday at 7:00 p.m. open discussion

**District 17**  
Liberacion Azteca Group  
714 Lindbergh Dr., Atlanta, GA 30324  
Meets Daily at 8:00 p.m. Cerradas

**District 17**  
Comino de fe de Athens Group  
610 Oglethorpe Ave., Athens, GA 30606  
Meets Daily at 8:00 p.m. Abiertas

**THINGS WE CANNOT CHANGE**

**Mary B.**  
Sobriety Date: July 27, 1984  
Passed: September 3, 2011  
Home Group: Coffee Co. Group  
Douglas, Georgia

**Johnny Paul D.**  
Sobriety Date: December 7, 1978  
Passed: August 17, 2011  
Home Group: Vienna Cordele Group  
Vienna, 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 DECEMBER 23, 2011 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.

ASSEMBLY MINUTES

(Area 16)  
**Assembly  
 Weekend**  
 Marriott Macon City  
 Center, Macon,  
 Sept. 18, 2011

**David M., 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 – Patty L.**

Good morning. My name is Patty L. and I am an alcoholic. Thank you all for being here this morning. I would like to welcome our guests – Julio E., GSO Staff and Jennifer D., Panel 61 Delegate from North Carolina.

Our September Assemblies are important for us as we elect our Area trusted servants. Selecting good leaders helps us to ensure the future of Alcoholics Anonymous. Concept IX says, "Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety." We in Area 16, Georgia have sound and appropriate methods for choosing our leaders as outlined in our Service Manual. As always, we have a great group of willing service leaders that have made themselves available. Thank you Tom, Teri, Brett, Dan, Rebecca, Art, and Chuck for your willingness to serve.

This weekend you will receive the Final Report of the 61st General Service Conference. I encourage you to read it and share it with your group. The report I gave in May was just a summary of the Conference. For example, the Conference voted that the General Service Conference take an inventory. I included that in my report, but on pages 11-13 in the final report there is a description of how the inventory will be conducted and the inventory questions. The Final Report also includes:

- Reports from the Boards, Trustees Committees, and GSO and Grapevine Staffs,
  - The workshop presentations on our Conference theme by the Delegates,
  - Recommendations and floor actions not resulting in Advisory Actions
  - Financial reports and much more
- (make note of Area 16 Georgia's rank

in contributions from the US for 2010 - #1).

An interesting fact about the illustrations is that they are actual drawings from the Conference. The illustrator was there drawing while the Conference was in session.

The General Service Board is scheduled to conduct an inventory of itself in October. El, our Southeast Trustee, serves on the planning committee for this inventory process. The Conference inventory will begin in 2013, and span three conferences. In addition, the Grapevine Board will be evaluating its Board composition and size. It nice to see our Conference and Boards using the same tools we use in our Area, Districts and Groups as well as our own personal recovery. To me, that is a sign of a healthy organization.

GSO staff rotates staff assignments every two years. This July, the staff moved to their new assignments. If you call for a specific desk (eg. Pl, Corrections, etc), the phone numbers have not changed, and neither has the email. However, you will get the new person in that role. I will put the new assignments on our website. Our new Southeast correspondence person is Gayle S.; all calls, letters and emails from the Southeast will be forwarded to Gayle.

As a result of the last Conference, we now have a pamphlet, "AA for the Alcoholic with Special Needs", an updated version of "AA Member – Medications and Other Drugs", and updated version of "Understanding Anonymity." These pamphlets are all available to order. Our eBook version of the 4th edition Big Book and the Twelve and Twelve will be available this November - check on [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) for the status. The AA Membership Survey was conducted in August. GSO should receive the completed surveys back by early September. We had 9 groups included in the survey.

The Grapevine continues to have financial challenges. The monthly reports from the Grapevine and LaVina are asking for support through subscriptions and purchasing products. A new catalogue is available on line with limited paper copies to send out by request. In addition, the Grapevine products are now included in the AA World Service's catalogue. Two new books were published this year, Emotional Sobriety II and Step by Step. Both are compilations of stories from the magazine. Check out the new website for web exclusives, daily stories, audio files and archives. Some of you may have noticed that Facebook and

Twitter were linked to the Grapevine's website for a short period of time. From what I understand the Board was told by the staff that they were going to use Facebook and Twitter to increase engagement with the readership. The Board approved it without a full understanding of the consequences. When it was brought to the attention of members in several areas, it was quickly escalated to the Grapevine Board due to issues with Anonymity. The Board voted to have it removed immediately. It has been recommended to the General Service Board that a study be undertaken to address alignment and utilization of social networking with the Steps, Traditions and Concepts.

Several of the Trustees Committees have asked for sharing from the Fellowship. Archives would like experiences with successes in archives collections. These experiences will be added to the Archives Workbook in the "Archives Committee Activities – Shared Experiences" section. The Corrections Committee will request sharing on new challenges and solutions in 12th Step work in Correctional Facilities. Finally, the Finance Committee is still requesting stories that humanize our 7th Tradition. I know that we have experiences to share from Georgia. Please take the time to write up anything you may be doing that others could learn from.

We had our Southeastern Conference in August. It was a great event hosted by North Carolina in the beautiful city of Raleigh. We have talked about the motion by the Southeastern Conference to add a service assembly to the Southeast Region bi-annually. Following the vote, an ad hoc committee was selected to draft guidelines for the service assembly. The Delegates provided feedback on the guidelines and they were presented at the Southeastern Conference in August for a vote. The guidelines were not adopted. In the meantime, Virginia decided to proceed with a service assembly, and a few other Areas joined in to support the event. It is called the Southern States Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly, and will be held November 4-6, 2011 in Fairfax, VA. The event is modeled after the Service Assembly in the Northeast Region. I have flyers if anyone is interested in attending.

If you have received your Box 459 Fall edition, you have seen the full page article about the 2015 International Convention in Atlanta. The International Convention Committee is accepting ideas for the Convention theme. The article includes past themes and a mailing address to send your ideas

**ASSEMBLY MINUTES / continued from page 6**

in. Registration and housing information will be sent out to all registered Groups in September 2014. Box 459 and [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) will have updates on the International as more information is available.

I received an email from one of our members sharing about a Daily Reflection website that was told to cease posting and emailing excerpts from our book Daily Reflections. There was an update about this in my recent communication from GSO. "AAWS recently requested an unauthorized source to stop posting Daily Reflections online without permission and to refrain from emailing daily excerpts to subscribers because this infringed on the copyright of this book, and they have complied" (quoted from "Highlights from AAWS", July 2011). GSO received about 800 emails and phone calls complaining about his action. In these complaints there were suggestions that GSO should provide this service. It is being considered.

In addition to our elections this weekend, we have several other exciting topics being discussed. We have considered a redistricting proposal between Districts 11A and 16B. According to our Manual, redistricting requests are first reviewed by the Office Committee, voted on by the DCMs and if approved brought to the GSRs. That process took place on Friday night and Saturday. It will be brought to the GSRs today. The Office Committee had a preview of our new web site design that is scheduled to be published during our PrePaid Convention in October. The Web Committee and their helpers have done a great job with the design and transferring the English and Spanish content to the new site. It has been a lot of work. The DCMs received the 2012 Budget for Area 16. You all will have an opportunity to see that prior to approval by the DCMs at our November DCM Planning Meeting. Finally, I have appointed an ad hoc committee to address our need for Spanish translation of our DCM and GSR meetings and workshops as well as all of our written material. District 17 has been a part of Area 16 Georgia for several years now and we have fallen short of being inclusive for our Spanish speaking trusted servants. The goal of the committee, chaired by John L., District 8 DCM, will be to have a recommendation for the DCM Planning Meeting in November.

In May, my report to you was primarily from the 61st General Service Conference. For those of you that were here, I left something out. I left out my two-minute farewell message to the

Conference. Most of the second year Delegates, more than 40, took two minutes to address the conference at the end. It is a very moving experience. I saved mine because I wanted to use the same sentiment when saying farewell to this body as your Delegate. This is my last Assembly as Delegate. Only a handful in this room, know what it is like to see how Alcoholics Anonymous works from the top (groups) to the bottom (GSB), and to meet people from all over the world who love AA just as much as each of us. I am grateful to you for that experience. I am a better person for having served as your Delegate. I have continued friendships and made many new friends. I am amazed by the quality of sobriety and character of all of the trusted servants I have worked with, especially our past Delegates, Office Committee, and all of you. I have gained wisdom, hope and a sense of peace regarding the future of our Fellowship. In each phase of my service work, I have experienced all of these things even before I was elected Delegate. I came to the Georgia State Service Assembly 23 years ago and had the exact same experience with people from all over Georgia. And there are many more than a handful of you, like I, that have enlarged your spiritual life by participating in service work. I look forward to being the Assembly Chairperson, and to continue as a part of our Office Committee. Thank you all for your support and encouragement. Especially my husband Rusty, who has provided continuous encouragement, traveled with me all over and sometimes just quietly stepped aside.

As I contemplate my next service position, I realize how much I will miss David S., as he will be rotating back to his home group. Thank you, David for all the time and energy you have given to our Fellowship.

**Questions:**

1. Steve F., GSR Clayton NewLife Group – In your discussion of the Daily Reflections online, I am still receiving them. Is there an authorized source?  
A: No, there is not an authorized source.
2. Frank – Is your presentation going to be available online?  
A: Yes.
3. Alan M. – Confused about District 11 and 16, is 11 going to be a part of 16.  
A: No, just redrawing the district lines, and a full proposal will be read during the business meeting this morning.
4. Avery, Cascade Group – question on Self Support pamphlet – what are the changes, and is there an addition-

al pie chart?

A: The new pamphlet will have a blank pie chart to encourage the Groups Conscience to determine the group contributions. The example distribution illustrated with pie charts are just that – examples not suggestions. The group makes the final decision. The business meeting opened at 9:50 am.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

**Report of the 58th Prepaid Convention – Gainesville, GA – 2011- Rebecca T.**  
The 2011 Prepaid Convention will be held at the Georgia Mountain Center, Gainesville, GA. on October 20-23, 2011. Committee went over events for convention. 692 currently registered. If planning for any of the paid events, need to pay for these events Thursday or Early Friday so spots are filled before Saturday. Georgia Mountain Center is ready and hotels filling fast. Volunteers still needed.

**Report of the 59th Prepaid Convention- Callaway Gardens - 2012**  
The room rate is \$99 per night with availability for 3 days before and after convention. Registration form will be available in Gainesville at the Convention and immediately thereafter online. Events and speakers are already planned. Plan to register in Gainesville.

David recognized past Area (State) Officers and thanked them all for all of their service and help with the election this weekend.

**Secretary Report - Ernie M.**

Attendance report for the January Assembly:

DCMs	50
All DCMs	28
District Secretary/Treasurer	5
GSRs	281
All GSRs	65
Group Secretary/Treasurers	27
Grapevine Reps	8
Treatment Facility Reps	4
Correctional Facility Reps	16
Communications	1
PI/CPC Reps	4
Archives Reps	5
Members	59
Total Attendance	553

Ernie talked about the "unknown status" of 52 groups in Area 16 that could not be listed in the Eastern AA Directory from GSO, as proper information had not been provided. Reminded the attendees that their DCMs had the packets for all groups in Area 16 to  
**Continued In Insert**



# 59<sup>th</sup> 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\***

**4<sup>th</sup> Step Workshop**

**Poker Run**

**Comedian**

**Dancing**

**Fishing\***

**Picnic\***

**Tennis\***

*\*Note: Some Activities Require a fee*

## Lodging

Mountain Creek Inn \$99 p/night\*

1 Bdrm Cottage \$160 p/night\*

Mountain Creek Inn Junior Suite \$99 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](http://www.pinemountain.org) for more lodging and camping info.

**IMPORTANT!** Reserve rooms by Sept. 18, 2012 and specify 59<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.aageorgia.org) for online registration & printable form  
For more info email us at [59thprepaid@aageorgia.org](mailto:59thprepaid@aageorgia.org)



to update and correct group information, and to please have done for the DCMs to bring to the November 12th DCM Planning meeting in Macon. Instruction letters were given to the DCMs for information needed to update both here in Area 16 and GSO-New York. Tamera now has the ability to make any changes directly online with GSO. Remember that our 2012 Area Directory will be updated from the information you provide. Any group that becomes inactive or changes to meeting only status will no longer be printed in the Area Directory. Remember the Central Offices and Intergroup Offices are a separate entity, and are not required to (and generally don't) provide any information to the Area Office - it is the group's responsibility to keep our Area Office informed of any group changes.

**Treasurer Report – Don M.**

Good news is that group contributions to GSSA are up two percent (+2%) through the end of August. However, group contributions to the prepaid convention are down seventeen percent (-17%) for the same time frame. Of the 752 groups in Area 16 (State of GA), 57% contributed to GSSA and 42% contributed to the prepaid convention. Don recognized Districts 9 & 11B for 100% contribution to GSSA, and Districts 5A & 5C for 100% contributions to both GSSA and the pre-paid convention. The cost per individual for this Assembly is \$20.74, and with that Don read the "Green Card" and the baskets were passed.

**Alternate Delegate Report - Tom H.**

We have one Cluster Forum remaining this year on November 5th in Metro Atlanta. The DCMs will begin receiving the Area Function lists with each message mailing and it will be available at the registration desk. Please review this list when you are planning a local function so not to conflict with functions already planned. Tom recognized Tamera and her volunteer for all the hard work setting up the Assembly. Also reminded everyone to go by the Grapevine Display and pick up a list of back GV issues needed to complete our GV archives.

**Special Office Committee Report - David S., Chairperson**

David said that he had not prepared any notes, as there would have been too many. David reported that we are in good shape – 553 persons in attendance and 50 DCMs is amazing. He is beyond hopeful of our future. Over the last 8 years he had met numerous people and has enjoyed his experi-

ence. You cannot do service work without support. Most times it involves sacrifice from those around you. Two people above all others stand out. Tamera (our office manager) began 7 years ago at GSSA. She is worth her weight in gold and her indefatigable efforts to serve the Office Committee, maintain liaison with GSO and all coordination for our Area Assemblies are but a few of her attributes. The second person is a lady he proposed to 29 years ago in a "drunken stupor" and 5 years later she joined him in service work. His bride has been willing to put the fellowship ahead of herself and her family, allowing the "one more time" as requested by David. A standing ovation was given to both David and Lucille. He surely will be missed.

**Old Business:**

Approval of minutes from the May 22, 2011 business meeting as printed in the July/August 2011 Message. Motion made by Brandon, GSR and seconded by Britt, GSR from the Abbeyville Group, to approve minutes as published. Unanimously approved.

**New Business:**

1. Final Report – 61st General Service Conference – Please take 1 copy per group. Look on page 6 and you will find the approved theme for 2012 – "Anonymity: Our Spiritual Responsibility in the Digital Age" along with the discussion topics. Motion to adopt theme by Wade Y., GSR District 8, and seconded by David H., GSR District 5C. Unanimously passed.

2. A new Grapevine Co-Chairperson (Joan M.) has been appointed by our Area Delegate. Assembly unanimously approved.

3. Change of district line of 11A and 16B. Proposal submitted per manual process. Read and discussed by Area Delegate. Proposal places Oconee County in 16B and out of 11A. This affects only one registered group and 1 non-registered group. Both groups and districts have approved, as it will maximize service work. Approved unanimously by Assembly.

4. Election of Area Delegate: David presented the 7 candidates to the Assembly. Ernie M. read the duties of the Delegate and conducted roll call of the DCMs to determine votes present and reminded that there is only one vote per group. A special thanks to Jennifer D., Delegate from North Carolina, and Julio E., GSO Staff, New York, for their assistance in vote counting.

**Delegate Election Round 1.**

Art	11
Brett	9
Chuck	8
Dan	18
Rebecca	19
Terri	5
Tom	228
Bruce	1
Blanks	2
Total Votes Cast:	302
203	TOM H. ELECTED DELEGATE

5. Election of Alternate Delegate: Ernie read the duties of the Alternate Delegate and the voting is as follows:

**Alternate Delegate Election Round 1.**

Art	53
Brett	26
Chuck	28
Dan	41
Rebecca	125
Terri	22
Blank	1
Total Votes Cast :	296

2/3= 199

**Alternate Delegate Election Round 2.**

Art	23
Brett	7
Chuck	12
Dan	17
Rebecca	224
Terri	22
Blank	1
Total Votes Cast:	290

2/3= 194 REBECCA T. ELECTED ALTERNATE DELEGATE

General Sharing: "Open Mike": Patty presented our Delegate Elect with his "New York Tie" and he is expected to wear it. Patty also announced that the letter of instruction in the DCM packets has a typo. Ernie listed the Planning Meeting as November 13th. It should have been November 12th.

1. Motion made that Area 16 update and make available to members the book - WE SHARE OUR GEORGIA EXPERIENCE BOOK. Motion made by Paul, Alt GSR, Tucker Group and seconded by Diane, Alt GSR, Clarkson Group. Discussion followed with show of support of motion from the Communications, PI/CPC, and Archives committees.

This is not a one person project, and many are willing to help. Ernie went to mike to explain in his opinion that the way the motion is written, the cost be absorbed by GSSA. He is in favor of the update, but felt the book should pay for itself and not come from Area funds. After more discussion, a motion to table this motion until a feasibility study is done and brought back to the January assembly was made

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## ASSEMBLY MINUTES / continued from front

by Amy S., GSR, Serenity by the River Group, 16C, and seconded by Mark, GSR, Room to Grow Group, Atlanta. Assembly approved to table the motion. In support of the motion, our Area Delegate will appoint an ad hoc committee to study cost and logistics and report back to Assembly in January.

2. Beth, GSR, Blue & White Group, Statesboro reported that the process of bidding for the 2013 Eastern Conference of Young People in AA to be held in Savannah has begun.

3. John H., Chair of the GCYPAA Advisory council wishes to thank the Area for its support over the years, and GA will hold its 21st Conference in Albany in 2013.

With no further business:

- John F., GSR, 14C Motion to Adjourn
- Lindsey J., GSR, 14B Seconded Motion

Unanimously Approved. Meeting ended at 12:22pm with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully Submitted

Secretary@ageorgia.org  
Ernie M.  
Area 16 Secretary