

DELEGATE / delegate@aageorgia.org

Confidential for members
March / April 2015
Volume 49, Numbers 3-4

The Foundation of our Future

By Rebecca T.
Area 16 Delegate

The theme for 2015 General Service Conference is "Celebrating 80 Years of Recovery, Unity and Service - The Foundation of Our Future". The presentation/discussion topic is "Our Common Welfare through Gratitude in Action", with four sub topics. We will use these same topics for the Cluster Forums. Our first Cluster Forum will be held March 21st in Alamo. What is the purpose of the Cluster Forums? They are sharing sessions designed to enhance and widen communication throughout the state. Who is invited? Everyone! The cluster forum is not just for GSR's & DCM's, it is for anyone in AA. It is a place for anyone to ask questions about what is going on in our Area or AA as a whole. I challenge everyone to bring one additional person to your cluster forum.

In the middle of February I received the background material for the

65th General Service Conference. What a task to review and understand all of the material. Studying the background material is like having a college course to cram for in 6 weeks. I am grateful for past Delegates, and other Delegates in the SE region. I also want to hear from you through the DCM's during the Area 16 Pre-Conference meeting. In 1951, Bill W. put the Conference in place on a trial basis and the Conference was adopted in 1955. Bill W. attended the Southeastern Regional Conference in 1951, where Georgia became Area 16 and joined the Conference in 1952. The forethought which Bill W. had for our future is still amazing. In 1962 the 12 Concepts were published. In the introduction Bill W. states, "These Concepts therefore aim to record the "why" of our service structure in such a fashion that the highly valuable experience of the past and the lessons we have drawn from that experience, can never be

forgotten or lost." The Concepts are a "group of related principles" which guide our service structure. Our Steps, Traditions and Concepts all have guiding principles which have held up through the test of time. My gratitude is deep for those who came before me and withstood the trial and error of our young Fellowship. When I began in AA, it was several years before I really understood about AA outside of my little home town. I knew there were "those people" in New York, but there was no connection. I can remember one of the first times someone contacted GSO in New York about a group issue. The response was read at our group conscience. It began with "Our experience has shown..." This surprised me but it was so helpful. Over the years, I have come to regard the General Service Office in New York as the keepers of our world services. I look forward to meeting you at an Assembly or one of the Cluster Forums.

ALTERNATE DELEGATE / alt_delegate@aageorgia.org

Unity

By Ernie M.
Area 16 Alternate Delegate

We all got through the Area 16 General Service Assembly and the "prepaid convention motion" on the floor. It was longer than most assemblies but shorter than I expected. Congratulations on the expediency with which this was done. Congratulations to the 61st Prepaid Convention committee for coming in under budget. We are all looking forward to the 62nd Prepaid Convention in Columbus this year as well as the 2015 *International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous* in Atlanta in July. Volunteers will be needed. Please see the flyers on our Area website both for the Convention and volunteer sign up. You must be

registered for the Convention to be a volunteer.

This month my home group celebrated its 25th anniversary as a group. Being on the planning committee, I had great ideas (my expectations) of how it should be done. I kept my thoughts and ideas to myself and let the committee decide the agenda, etc. I got to read the history of the group, and other older members shared their experiences with the group since becoming members of AA. Despite my concerns, all went very well. I learned control is not in my hands and to apply "let go and let God" to running the show. To me, unity is the most important part of our Service Triangle: to see that other opinions do matter, and that we can work through our difficulties no

matter how big or small they are. Communication, listening and deciding on what to do are very important factors of unity. I can't quit and go home if things are not my way! This much I owe to AA for saving my life.

Don't forget our First of Four Forums, the Southeast Cluster Forum, will be on March 21st, 2015 at the Women's Bridges of Hope in Alamo, GA. (See flyer on www.aageorgia.org). April 11, 2015 will be the pre-conference meeting with our Area Delegate in Macon. Our next Assembly is May 15-18th. We will have a very short business meeting on Sunday morning, due to the training meeting for the volunteers for the International Convention of AA in Atlanta beginning at 1 p.m.

Carrying the Message through Contributions

By Diane M.
Area 16 Treasurer

For many years Area 16 was operating at a loss, eroding our prudent reserve. In 2014, the Area groups responded through increased contributions and the Assembly reduced budgeted expenses for our Office and Service Committees. In addition, some committee members opted to waive reimbursement for some of their expenses, reducing expenses even further. Also, bulk purchase discounts for the 1st Edition Big Book led to larger than normal literature profits. All of which contributed to a net profit of \$15K in 2014.

I applaud everyone for their efforts!

However, our committee members will no longer continue to personally pay for committee related expenses, or feel obligated to do so. We need to know the true cost of our services and to ensure that any member has an opportunity to serve, regardless of their personal economic status.

Bill W. wrote: "AA's far-flung Twelfth Step activities, carrying the message to the next sufferer, are the very lifeblood of our AA adventure. Without this vital activity, we would soon become anemic; we would literally wither and die.... Though not

costly, these service agencies are absolutely essential to our continued expansion – to our survival as a Fellowship."

Bill told us that our survival as a fellowship is contingent upon our service committees that help us carry the message. What costs are you willing to pay? Increase your contributions to help carry the message or allow us to become "anemic" and "wither and die"? My sobriety, and my life, is dependent upon the continued existence of AA, is yours? You can answer this question through your contributions.

SECRETARY / secretary@aageorgia.org

The AA Group

By Deborah K.
Area 16 Secretary

It was an honor to serve at my first Georgia State Service Assembly as your Area Secretary. As I looked out at the energy, knowledge, and engagement of the members, I was extremely grateful to be part of a process that allows carrying the message of AA to work so well. Our informed group conscience hammered through each of the items on the Prepaid Motion to reach substantial unanimity. I am thankful to our DCMs and GSRs for sharing the information with the members to allow their involvement in the process. The term, "informed group conscience" implies the information has been studied and all views have been heard before the group votes. "The AA Group...Where it All Begins", 2005 GSC. Our group conscience was reached through the sharing of information, listening to individual points of view, and the practice of AA's principles. The group was also willing to listen to minority

opinion with an open mind. It was a beautiful experience to watch!

Our Area Office Committee communicates to the membership through the DCMs. The webmaster has established an email account for DCMs to share any pertinent information. DCMs can share this information to the GSRs through email or at District/Zone meetings. It was a pleasure to see the GSRs approach the microphone with documents in hand to express the voice of their home groups. I appreciate the DCMs who shared these documents they received through their email accounts. If you are a DCM and have not yet accessed your email account, I encourage you to do so. I will be glad to provide you any assistance.

Please submit your District/Zone meeting minutes to district-minutes@aageorgia.org. Feel free to contact me at secretary@aageorgia.org

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. 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.
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 or other trusted servants. Please provide any feedback to: communications@aageorgia.org or editor@aageorgia.org.

GRAPEVINE / grapevine@aageorgia.org

Grapevine Subscription Challenge 2015

By Janie C., Chair and Dorman P., Co-Chair
Area 16 Grapevine Committee

What is it?

A state, province, and territory-wide challenge to increase new GRAPEVINE and LA VINA subscriptions in 2015. Beginning February 1st, find out how it works and about the Prize at: www.aagrapevine.org/challenge

For single payment and multiple subscription forms visit: www.aagrapevine.org/gvr and click on the link under "Subscription & Product Resources" in the right-hand column.

How It Works

Any new, paid subscription between January 26, 2015—December 20, 2015 qualifies, including subscriptions for:

- Grapevine or La Viña in Print
- Grapevine Digital
- Grapevine Complete
- Redeemed Subscription Certificates

The Prize

A special section in a 2016 issue of Grapevine or La Viña featuring members' stories from the state, province or territory with the greatest percentage growth in new* paid subscriptions or subscription gift certificates.

- A new subscription is one that hasn't been active in the past 6 months.

How Does Georgia Compare? (visit aagrapevine.org, Resources/GVR, Grapevine News for the complete chart!) Let's take the challenge and put Area 16 out front!

PI/CPC / pi/cpc@aageorgia.org

Many Options

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

"Acting my way into service", I was told many years ago. I cannot think my way in to sober living. I have to act my way into sober thinking. I think the same principle applies to service work for me. As a drunk, I had big ideals and great plans when I was trying to think my way sober. I never accomplished a thing, not even sobriety. When I finally took the suggestion "you have to act sober to be sober", all kinds of remarkable things happened in my life. The biggest was that I no longer had to drink. For me, service in AA is the same. I can have all the plans in the world, but until I put some action behind those plans nothing happens. I am not carrying the message. In Public Information and Cooperation with the Professional Community there

are many ways to carry the message to the still suffering Alcoholic either in person or through a third party. Sometimes having so many options can make a committee or an individual stuck just thinking and planning about doing it. What I have found is if you just pick one thing and act on it then the other things will follow. Before you know it, you are acting on all your plans one at a time and you are being of service. For example: A group wants to work with physicians. If everyone in the group took a handful of meeting schedules to their own doctor your plan turns in to an action. You are then acting in service instead of thinking about being in service. I always reap great rewards when I am acting sober and am acting in service.

FEBRUARY

GRAPEVINE

LA VIÑA

BASE	SUBS	% CHANGE	STATE/TERRITORY	BASE	SUBS	% CHANGE
520	0	0	Alabama	5	0	0
403	0	0	Alaska	1	0	0
1440	0	0	Arizona	419	0	0
371	0	0	Arkansas	5	0	0
6460	0	0	California	2997	0	0
1297	0	0	Colorado	26	0	0
939	0	0	Connecticut	54	0	0
293	0	0	Delaware	4	0	0
144	0	0	District of Columbia	12	0	0
3871	0	0	Florida	324	0	0
1732	0	0	Georgia	53	0	0
344	0	0	Hawaii	2	0	0
489	0	0	Idaho	48	0	0
2219	0	0	Illinois	127	0	0
1035	0	0	Indiana	41	0	0
632	0	0	Iowa	13	0	0

FROM YOUR EDITOR

I am taking this opportunity to share my thoughts about the AA International Convention Volunteer Kick-Off event held back in January. Wow! This event was unlike any other I've heard of within AA. We have all had a combination of experiences with different types of AA meetings, conferences, service events and retreats. It's unlikely you've attended anything like this kick-off. Here are some phrases that describe, for me, this very special event: Hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of people; Audio, visual, entertainment; seeing familiar faces and making new friends; Truly unique service opportunities; Informative; Heartfelt and moving; The Drum Line.

Thanks to everyone that made it uniquely special. I hope I've motivated each of you to read the additional information to register and volunteer on page 12 of this newsletter so you too can be part of this extraordinary event being held in our backyard.

— Jenine M., Area 16 Editor

The Georgia Message of AA is published by Area 16.
CONTACT: P.O. Box 7325, Macon, GA 31209 or gssa@aageorgia.org.
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS: Communications Chair Chuck L. and Co-Chair Ron G.
DESIGNER: Amy F.
PRINT AND DELIVERY: Tamera P.
CONTACT: editor@aageorgia.org

ARCHIVES / archives@aageorgia.org

Home Group History

By John B., Chair and Gary N., Co-Chair
Area 16 Archives Committee

We in Georgia have completed the tremendous task of getting material together for *We Share II*. Now would be a good time to think about how we can continue building our history at the Group level while this is fresh on our minds.

Items you may want to keep are minutes from group conscience meetings and emails such as letters and documents to and from District, Zone, Area, and GSO. Additionally, photographs of meeting sites are helpful because many groups are not in their original meeting place. If possible, get pictures of former meeting sites as they will help in establishing a timeline for your group's history. These suggestions will build upon your group's preservation of current activities for those that will come after us.

However, there is more to our task. Now comes detective work to pry into your

group's past. Founding documents, such as the group's charter and correspondence, may be found in filing cabinets or boxes stored in closets or storage rooms. Another resource is the Area 16 archives in Macon.

There are many resources available to assist the groups. The *Archives Workbook* is available from our GSSA Office (478-745-2588). There is also your Area 16 Archive Committee (archives@aageorgia.org). Many of our Districts and Zones have Archive Chairs- please use them. Your group GSR can help with this. Our goal is to have the Archives Chair position filled for all districts and zones. If you are considering a service position, we've got one for you.

Thank you for your support of the Area 16 Archives. We look forward to seeing you at the May Georgia State Service Assembly.

Don't forget to visit The Archive Online Exhibit...

COMMUNICATIONS / communications@aageorgia.org

Find A Meeting

By Chuck L., Chair and Ron G., Co-Chair
Area 16 Communications Committee

As always, it was nice to see so many old friends and make new ones at the Georgia State Service Assembly in January. It was a vibrant and productive weekend, filled with the exchange of ideas and information. The web committee would like to welcome first year GSR, Tom B., to the committee. As a past web administrator for Area 16, Tom will be a valuable team member. The committee's work is focused on keeping aageorgia.org, our Area 16 website, one of the best in all of AA. The committee's meeting included a brainstorming session that helped identify the core values, goals and overall direction needed to keep the website dynamic, while staying aligned with the group conscience of the assembly.

Presently, the committee is working to enhance the "Find a Meeting" function of the website. The

outcome will be a more interactive and easier method for newcomers, visitors to Area 16 and current Area members. They will not only find meetings close to them but will view them on a map to see where they are located. The accuracy of the search engine depends on the accuracy of the information collected from groups. It is vital that all groups keep their information current. This can be done by completing the group update form found on aageorgia.org, emailing the webmaster or emailing the state office.

To all of you who filled out assembly evaluation forms, thank you! There was a concerted effort by the Office Committee and the Area 16 standing committee chairs during the weekend to emphasize the importance of submitting these. The Assembly responded admirably. Your comments and ratings are crucial to improving the Assembly experience and are greatly appreciated.

TREATMENT / treatment@aageorgia.org

Update Meeting Codes

By John L., Chair and Don O., Co-Chair
Area 16 Treatment/Special Needs/Accessibilities Committee

This year is an exciting year for AA in Georgia! We are hosting the world in July when the International Convention comes to Atlanta. As with many of you, we look forward to the service opportunities that such a large undertaking presents. One way we can be of service is taking care of our responsibilities right here at home. We ask each group to assess their meeting place and make sure the coding for handicapped accessibility is correct on the meeting schedule.

We have had contact from members seeking ASL translators. If there are translators available in your district, please make them known to your DCMs and Treatment/Special Needs/Accessibilities representatives so we can make contact. It is also good to know what resources are available in the way of literature. There is a section in the AA literature catalog devoted to Special Needs. Please familiarize yourself with these resources for the inevitability that someone will come into your group who may need them.

Another exiting annual event is our Treatment/Special Needs/Accessibilities Workshop. This year's event will be held on June 13th. District 3 has volunteered to host the event. As soon as the location and time is confirmed, we will make flyers available. We hope to see you all there this year.

I look forward to serving with our newly confirmed Co-Chair. Don O. has already put a lot of work into Treatment/Special Needs/Accessibilities in his District. Thank you for allowing both of us to be of service to Area 16.



CORRECTIONS / corrections@aageorgia.org



Helping the Alcoholic that still Suffers

By Tim E., Chair
Cathy B., Co-Chair
Area 16 Corrections Committee

“Never talk down to an alcoholic from any moral or spiritual hilltop; simply lay out the kit of spiritual tools for his inspection. Show him how they worked with you. Offer him friendship and fellowship. Tell him that if he wants to get well you will do anything to help.” “Alcoholics Anonymous”, page 95.

“Bridge the Gap” is an important service in Corrections. An inmate fills out a form to request a volunteer AA member in the area to which the inmate will be returning so he may correspond with him about recovery. After the inmate is released, he meets the volunteer AA member at an agreed upon location. The volunteer goes to a couple of meetings with the returning inmate. The volunteer introduces the inmate to other AA members and lets the inmate know he is welcome. As one

member stated, “In AA, we don’t care about his past, we stick out our hand and say ‘Welcome!’” The inmate knows he is home. Please consider being a volunteer for “Bridge the Gap.”

Please join us this year to become a volunteer and do service work in Corrections. We have several service options available:

- (1) Carrying a meeting into the prisons
- (2) Bridge the Gap
- (3) Correspondence
- (4) Coins for Cons

Our next training to become certified as a volunteer to carry meetings into Georgia Prisons will be held May 23, 2015 at the Georgia State Service Assembly Office in Macon. We normally start at around 8:00 a.m. If you are interested in doing service work in Corrections and have questions, send an email to corrections@aageorgia.org.

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:

GSSA (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.

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.

March 13 - 15	Flint River Round Up Albany
March 21	Southeast Cluster Forum Includes (3A,3B,3C,3D,4,5A,5B,5C,5D)
April 11	DCM Pre-Conference Meeting Macon/Marriott 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
April 19-25	65th General Service Conference New York
May 15-17	Georgia AA Service Assembly Macon/Marriott
May 17	2015 International Convention Volunteer Training Atlanta/GA World Congress Center

The deadline for the articles for the message for May and June is April 1st. 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

Birthday Contributions

District 1, Zone A

Bainbridge Group
Ronnie F. – 4 Years
Cissie F. – 25 Years

District 5, Zone A

Ernie M. – January 19, 1989
Garden City Group
Delia S. – August 28, 1989

District 6

East Highland Group
LeAnne O. – January 20, 1991

District 7, Zone A

New Southside Group
Felix – December 15, 2007

District 7, Zone B

Flint River Group
Brenden F. – January 2
Sisters in Sobriety Group
Betty H. – September 29, 2005

District 8

Baldwin County Group
George S. – November 13, 1981
Brookins B. – December 2, 1993

I Am Responsible Group

Ken P. – September 6, 2006
Brandon L. – November 11, 2009

District 11, Zone B

Twelve-Step Sisters Group
Paula L. – October 5, 2012

MACON MARRIOTT CITY CENTER RESERVATIONS

Need A Room at the Marriott for Assembly?

CALL (478) 621-5300

or

Marriott reservations @ 1-800-MARRIOTT and use mini hotel block 3 digit code : SSB

Group listed as : GSSA - May 2015

Please remember the cut-off date is April 15th, 2015

District 11, Zone C

Just For Today Group
Peggy D. – March 2, 1994

District 13, Zone A

Clean Air Group
Bill M. – December 15, 1993
Denise C. – June 23, 2005

District 13, Zone G

Skyland Group
Shari K – 9 Years.

Things We Cannot Change

Frank F.
Journey of Days
SOB: 12/11/1983
Passed: 9/28/2014

Cliff R.
Journey of Days
SOB: 7/4/1976
Passed: 12/8/2014

Bob Lewis

Clean Air Group
Sandy Springs, GA
Sober: 2/27/1991
Passed: 2/5/2015

New Groups

District 13 Zone H

Ardmoor Group
1472 Richard Rd.
Decatur, GA 30032
Meets 1st three Mondays 7:30 p.m.
open and last Monday of month
closed

District 16 Zone B

Sober Open-Minded (S.O.W.)
Group
Lake Wood Hills Senior Village
1025 Barnett Sneeds Rd. #11
Athens, GA
Tuesday Noon Big Book Study

WE SHARE - preorder form

<http://www.aageorgia.org/we-share-2nd-edition.html>

Editor's Note: Correction to wording of Prepaid Motion

At the time the Prepaid motion was made in January, the Ad-Hoc Committee had not been formed. The proper wording of the motion would be - "I make a motion to adopt the report of the Prepaid Inventory Committee." This was incorrectly reported in the March/April 2014 and July/August 2014 Message.

This has been discussed at length with Tom H., Area 16 Chair. I have included excerpts from the minutes for your review:

Assembly: January 2014 (March/April Message)

Linda S., GSR Gratitude Group 12A, made a motion to adopt the recommendation of the Prepaid Ad Hoc Committee. Chris M, GSR Wrightsville Serenity Group 8, seconded. The Delegate will form an Ad-Hoc Committee to report in May.

Assembly May 2014 minutes (July/August Message)

The Ad-Hoc Committee report on the motion: "To adopt the recommendation of the Prepaid Ad Hoc Committee". (Vote) The committee included: Hank R. DCM 5C (committee chair), Randy B. 15A, Phil M. 2A, Art H. 13G, Amy F. 10E.

Sept/October 2014 Message

Motion: To adopt the report of the Pre-Paid Inventory Committee. (Vote)

This is the correct wording of the motion.

Debi Keane
Area 16 Secretary

THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA / PAGE 7

**Area 16 Assembly
Marriot Macon City Center
January 18, 2015
9:00 AM**

Business Meeting Opened
Delegate Report-Rebecca T., Panel 64 Delegate
Rebecca – Privilege to serve as your delegate on Panel 64
Who is here for their first assembly?
I love January assembly with the start of a new year, the start of new officers and especially new GSRs and DCMs. We are excited you are all here!
In Alcoholic Anonymous the roll of the GSR is important to carry the voice of the fellowship. On the screen is the “structure of the Conference”.

I contacted GSO archives to obtain some history of the inverted triangle. From GSO archives, “Research shows it is clearly evident in our history, the concept of the fellowships “upside down,” structure was forged early. Many years later the inverted triangle was constructed. One of the earliest representations of the inverted triangle is found in the 1st printing of the 12 Concepts for World Service illustrated pamphlet in 1986.”

I do not know of another organization where the groups have the voice and they are the top of our service structure. Just as vital to the voice is an informed group conscience.

An informed group conscience is arrived through a process. A quote from Dr. Bob, July 1944 from an Editorial published in the Grapevine on cultivating Tolerance “Tolerance furnishes, as a by-product, a greater freedom from the tendency to cling to pre-conceived ideas and stubbornly adhered-to opinions. In other words it often promotes an open-mindedness which is vastly important--in fact a prerequisite to the successful termination of any line of search, whether it be scientific or spiritual.”

Also, in an article from Language of the Heart – Bill W. states regarding Tradition Two in January 1948 – “Sooner or later, ever AA comes to depend upon a Power greater than himself. He finds that the God of his understanding is not only a source of strength but also a source of positive direction.”

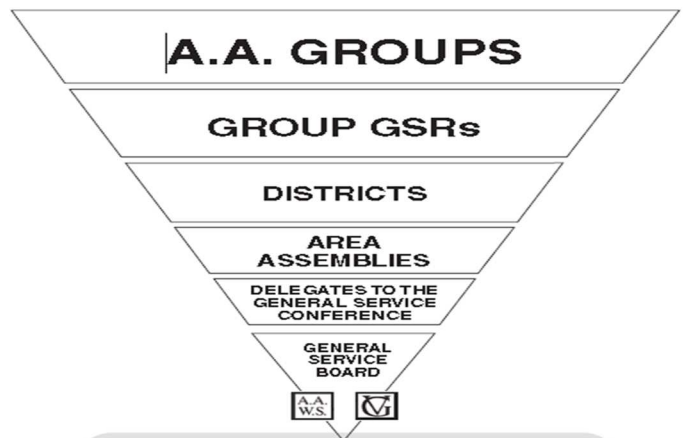
These 2 quotes from our co-founders express the spirit of the group conscience, open mindedness and positive direction.

When I was new I heard the old timers talking about trust the process and time takes time. I can tell you I would get frustrated and want to make a decision and move on. I have learned over the years the best which the God of my understanding wants for me comes in his time. Also, listening to what everyone has to share is how we can come to informed group conscience. What other fellowship or society do the members get to express their opinion? And the groups vote?
Subsequently, I have been part of a Home Group, several committees and life in general where the principle of open mindedness was vital to achieve the very best for the situation. Does this mean I am a saint and never want my way? Of course not! I have the experience of trusting the process.

After the conference last April our 2 corporate boards and the trustees went to work on the advisory actions and the additional considerations.

I received highlights from A.A.W.S. from the board weekend in

STRUCTURE OF THE CONFERENCE (U.S. and Canada)



October & December.

*General Manager Phyllis H., reported that 61 delegates representing 41 countries and zones traveled to share their experience, strength and hope at the 23rd World Service Meeting held October 12-16, 2014 in Warsaw, Poland.

Phyllis announced her retirement by October 2015. In December Phyllis H. reported that preparations for the 2015 Conference have moved center stage with the first Conference planning meeting taking place on November 4, 2014. Planning for the 2015 International Convention is starting to move at an accelerated pace. The 11th floor Co-location Project (AAWS & Grapevine to be in the same office space) is on track with the 2015 schedule.

*Staff coordinator reported - The Corrections desk has received 4,870 letters and 2,742 e-mails through the third quarter of 2014. During these nine months, we linked 651 male alcoholics and 237 female alcoholics for a total of 888 through our Corrections Correspondence Service.

*Services - G.S.O.'s Group Services coordinator attended the 29th Annual Intergroup/Central Office/A.A.W.S./AAGV Seminar in Chicago, Illinois on September 25-28, 2014 where G.S.O. had the opportunity to hear detailed, shared experience from local A.A. offices about a wide range of challenges and solutions on the frontlines of A.A. support services. Tamera also attended this meeting.

*Publishing - EBooks sales have continued apace. Prices have not been increased for our EBook titles. *A.A. Comes of Age* (English) is now available as a digital book on the three major platforms: Kindle, Apple and Nook; the translations into French and Spanish are being worked on. *As Bill Sees It* is available as of November 25. First 11 months of 2014 we sold \$49K in EBook sales. Through October, we have sold 175,148 units of the 75th Anniversary Commemorative Edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous*, with an estimated profit of approximately \$1,010,000, which included costs for a large reorder resulting in excess unfinished inventory of the Commemorative Edition. We expect a charge of approximately \$474,375 will be reflected in the final financial results for 2014. As part of a plan to address the remaining unsold inventory, the A.A.W.S. Board agreed to extend sales beyond the original end date of July 2015.

THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA / PAGE 8

*Finance - The unaudited G.S.O. financial update for the 10 months ended October 31, 2014 showed:

Net sales	\$ 15M
Gross Profit (Literature)	\$ 9.5M
Contributions	\$ 5.5M
Total operating expenses	<u>\$ 12.9M</u>
Year to date profit	\$ 2M

In October it was noted, despite a slight drop in contributions this quarter, we ended the quarter \$1,2M over budget due to increased sales before the October 1, 2014 literature increase. In December it was noted that for the ten months, revenues were 8.8 percent greater than budgeted and 21 percent greater than the first ten months of last year as well. In addition, operating expenses were 2.8 percent less than budgeted and 3.6 percent greater than last year. Imagine where we would be if each of us gave 1 more \$1.00 to reduce our reliance on literature profit?

In December I received my communication packet for the upcoming conference in April. In mid-February I will receive the background material to prepare for conference. The process is ongoing. Wow, it is hard to believe we are already half way through January!

Another process which we will get to be part of this year is the International convention. We will celebrate "80 Years – Happy, Joyous and Free!" At the volunteer meeting I asked Julio, GSO staff, what was the process to select Atlanta for the 2015 International? See timeline

*The process started back in 2002 with a 2015 International Convention Area Delegate Bid questionnaire.

*In 2002 & 2003 John D. was serving as our Delegate.

*February 2003 the trustee's committee on International convention/regional forum sent city convention bureau bid questionnaires to 10 cities.

*At the April 2003 General Service Conference the Conference approved the recommendation of 3 cities – Atlanta, Indianapolis and Vancouver. Sites visits were made to all 3 cities.

*November 2003 Atlanta was selected to be the site of the 2015 International convention.

In 2004 I was a GSR and it was announced Atlanta was selected to be the site for the 2015 International. It reminded me of when Atlanta was selected to host the Olympics. What an exciting time and Assembly. What an honor to be selected and the next thought was that is far off, but I wanted to be a part of the convention; also, what a process to select a city.

Yesterday Patty L. gave more details how sign up to volunteer. Now we need you and your friends.

Granted there is a lot which goes on behind the scenes for GSO to prepare for conference. Also, the same is true for the core committee and the sub committees for us to volunteer at the International. The core committee started meeting early 2014 and the sub committees started meeting September 2014.

Thank you to the Volunteer committee for your dedication and commitment. I look forward to us welcoming the world to Georgia!

Which brings us to this morning; Tom – our Area Chair - will guide

us through the process of the motion which is on the floor and the rest of the business meeting. There has been a lot of work which has gone on by several committees to get us to where we are today.

As Traditional Two states " For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern."

Today may we have an open mind, see the source of positive direction and trust the process. Does anyone have any questions?

Thank you,,
Rebecca Panel 64/Area16

BUSINESS MEETING

Recognize Past Area Officers- Tom H., Assembly Chair
David M., past Treasurer and past Delegate; Harold I, past Treasurer; Glenda past State Office Manager and past Secretary; Bill N., GSB trustee, AAWs Director

Approval of minutes from September 20, 2014- Debi K., Area Secretary

Mike C., GSR 11C Motion to approve
David J., GSR 10D 2nd

Approved by a show of hands

**A note will be added to the copy of the minutes submitted to the Area Archives that reflects the correct wording of the Pre-paid motion as it was stated.*

Approval of Theme – Tom H., Assembly Chair
Theme for the Conference and for our Area Cluster Forums
Our Common Welfare, Gratitude in Action

Diversity in AA-Our Heritage of Inclusion
Safety and Respect-Practicing the Principles begins in our Home Group

Safeguarding our Traditions through the Evolution of Technology

Inventory- Looking Back to Move Ahead

Approved by a show of hands to use for our Cluster Forums this year

Report from Patty L., 2015 International Convention Volunteer Host Committee Chair: We are going to welcome the word to Atlanta July 2-5, 2015! 32,000 already registered, 24 countries represented, 400 from the deaf community. Volunteer Kick-off January 10th huge success- 1700 people attended. Need 2500 more. Please tell all your friends. All of this information is updated on our website: aageorgia.org/international. The website includes information about each volunteer sub-committee and each sub-committee's email address, link to sign up to volunteer, and a link to register for the convention. Volunteer sign up is online. When you sign up to volunteer they will ask for your email address and cell phone number. Please provide them-they will not be abused; we will only use them to provide you updated information about volunteering. You must be paid to register in order to be a volunteer. No discounts- no free registrations to volunteer. Once schedules are finalized in March/April, you will be notified to choose your time slot for the shift you want to volunteer. The registration deadline is to through Convention date in July. However, if you register by May 12th, your badge will be mailed to you. It is easier for volunteers to preregister so that when you arrive at the convention to

THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA / PAGE 9

volunteer, you will be able to check in easily and get your T-shirt.

Volunteer training will be held at the Georgia World Conference Center on May 17th from 2:00-6:00 PM. That is an Assembly weekend. However, we have made arrangements to end the Assembly at 11:00 AM so you will have ample time to drive from Macon to Atlanta to participate in the Volunteer Training.

Rumors are not true: The International is NOT sold out.

Report from We Share Our Georgia Experience:
No report at present. The Office Committee will contact Claudia S. The book is at the printer. This is a history of the AA groups in Georgia. We will provide more information in May.

Report of the 61st Prepaid Convention- Jekyll Island-Oct. 16-19 2014- Deborah C (Chair)

The 61st Prepaid Convention held in Jekyll Island was a huge success! Deborah c., Convention Chair, thanked the Prepaid Committee for their dedication and hard work in putting a fabulous convention together. Thanks to the Nahunta Group for allowing the committee to meet in their clubhouse which provided a central location for the committee members.

There were over 1600 preregistrations and 470 walk-ins with a total attendance of 1750 people. The cost of the convention was \$41,543.74 which was \$4,259.86 under budget. The theme of the convention, "Living in the Heart of AA" was carried throughout by the speakers, volunteers, and participants. The committee was able to involve residents of a local halfway house who hosted the Hospitality Suite. There were 6 AA speakers and 1 AI Anon speaker who were vetted and chosen with the convention theme in mind. The sunrise AA meetings on the beach and morning yoga were both popular activities. The speaker luncheon was personalized as it was held at the home of Vera L, Convention CoChair, with volunteers providing home-cooked food.

The entire Convention Committee felt the satisfaction of a job well done and left the convention energized and renewed in the love and peace of the program of Alcoholics Anonymous!

Report of the 62nd Prepaid Convention- Columbus- Oct. 16-18, 2015-Jodi (Chair)

Celebrating 80 Years of Recovery, Unity, and Service- the Foundation of Our Future
The prepaid convention is YOUR convention; you put money "in the basket" to pay for our convention. Information and registration flyers on aageorgia.org and in the next Georgia Message. Please join us!

Activities include:
18 holes of golf- \$36 in advance, Poker Run, cycling, DJ, karaoke, river walk, zip lines whitewater rafting, historic home tours, area museums, ice cream social Friday night (self-pay). Speakers include:

Danny B- Texas
Don L- Washington
Tim T – Ohio
Marilyn S- California
Lisa W-Florida
AI Anon speaker Bo T Alabama

Separate AA and AI ANON Meetings during the convention at

Columbus Convention and Trade Center
Saturday Dinner with Speakers \$25-paid in advance (preferably when you register)
Must reserve for dinner and pay by September assembly

Coffee at the Convention and Hospitality at one of the hotels (TBD)

Hotels:
Columbus Marriott- (host hotel) -\$139 night 706-324-1800
Doubletree- \$109 night 706-327-6868
Days Inn - \$79 night 706-322-3522
Howard Johnson's - \$65 706-322-6641
Holiday Inn- \$99 night 706-324-0231

Area Officer's Reports:
Ernie M., Alternate Delegate:

Please complete your evaluation form (available at the desk or online) so we can resolve any situations by the May Assembly.

Upcoming events:

Corrections Certification- Date has changed from January 21st to January 31st- 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Hilton Head Mid-Winter Conference- Jan. 30 – Feb. 1, 2015

25th Unity Weekend- Sugar Hill- Feb. 6-8

SE Delegates Get Together Atlanta Feb. 6-8

Flint River Round Up – Albany March 13-15

SE Cluster Forum – hosted by District 4 –Alamo March 21st –
Flyer on line

DCM Pre-Conference Meeting- Macon/Marriott April 11-11:00 AM-3:00PM

65th General Service Conference- NY- April 19-25

Georgia AA Service Assembly- Macon/Marriott- May 15-17

2015 International Convention Volunteer Training- (GWCC)
2:00PM-6:00PM

Corrections Certification Training- Macon/GSSA- May 23-
8:00AM – 1:00PM

We will have 4 clusters this year instead of 8-Information and flyers online at aageorgia.org

Debi K. Area Secretary:
Attendance Report

DCMs	47
Alt DCMs	28
District Secy/Treasurers	10
GSRs	234
Alt GSRs	62
Group Secy/Treasurers	37
Grapevine Reps	6
Treatment Facilities Reps	13
Correctional Facilities Reps	12
Communications Reps	2
PI/CPC Reps	11
Archives Reps	2
Members-at-large	61

TOTAL ATTENDANCE 515

Please keep group information updated on aageorgia.org.
Please email district minutes to districtminutes@aageorgia.org

Diane M., Treasurer

Budget and Financials handed out through DCMS

THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA / PAGE 10

Last year we communicated that we were in financial trouble. We had a budget of -\$24,000 that was amended to a -\$12,000

Group contributions have increased \$12,000 from the previous year! Please be sure to thank your GSRs and your members for their contributions.

Office Committee and Committee Chairs tightened their belts as well. This caused a decrease in expenses of \$11,000. Many of these funds came out of the individual's own pockets. We appreciate their generosity but we also need an accurate accounting of the costs to continue the various services provided by the committees. The next person may not have the financial means to cover their committee work out of their own pockets. We are revising our accounting to a system that will show actual costs.

We also saw a \$7000 profit due to literature sales. Our Office Manager, Tamara P., made a bulk order of the 75th Edition of Alcoholics Anonymous and ordered literature before prices increased which enabled us to show this increase.

We showed a \$15,000 profit this year which can be put back into our prudent reserve. At the present time, our prudent reserve is at about 7 1/2 months.

We cannot automatically assume that we can expect the same next year. We need to continue to encourage self-support from the individuals and groups.

We have 755 groups-465 groups (62%) contributed to GSSA; 46% contributed to the Prepaid.

Prepaid Budget comes out of a separate account. The Prepaid has a prudent reserve of about 2 1/2 years. Prepaid budget is \$45,000. We receive about \$40,000 a year in Prepaid contributions from the groups.

The 2015 Budget approved by DCMs indicated a \$500 profit. The changes from the Prepaid motion added GSSA expenses for mileage and food for the Office Committee and Committee Chairs. With those expenses in mind, our budget is now at a \$2700 deficit. We will have also revised our accounting procedures to provide information on how our Committees are using the money to carry the message of AA.

Please give to the gift boxes to GSO and GSSA. The cost of the Assembly for each person is \$26.49

7th Tradition Basket Passed

OLD BUSINESS

Tom H., Assembly Chair Reviewed Assembly Procedures referenced "How the Assembly Operates" document available at the registration desk. He explained substantial unanimity (two-thirds vote by a count), general rules of discussion and voting, amending motions, calling the question, minority opinion, reconsideration, and tabling a motion.

Motion- To adopt the report of the Prepaid Inventory Committee.

Item 1 from an amended motion approved in September

Item 1: *The Prepaid budget should include hotel rooms for the Area Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs and the GSSA budget should include reimbursement for meals and mileage (per the area guidelines) for attendance at the Prepaid Convention.*

Motion to amend- Chuck F GSR Alpharetta Group
2nd Motion- Ken B

Amended Motion carried 228-9 If the Area Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs are invited to perform service work (set up and attend displays, for example) at the Convention, the Host Committee budget should include the cost of hotel rooms for the Area Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs and the GSSA budget should include reimbursement for meals and mileage for the Area Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs (per the Area guidelines) for each day of attendance at the Convention.

Tom H. explained the history of the report. Two reports: The Prepaid Inventory Committee Report (item A) The Ad Hoc Committee Report (item B).

Only GSRs or their duly authorized alternates can vote. Numbers taken from Attendance Report.

Item 2: *Reimburse the Area Office Manager for the hotel room, meals and mileage (per the Area guidelines) in the GSSA budget to attend the Prepaid Convention.*

Frank S Motion made to amend to adopt #2 from the Prepaid Ad Hoc Committee Report
Peg G GSR 2nd
Show of hands to accept the amended motion

Amended Motion Carried: If the Area Office Manager is invited to attend the Convention, the Host Committee budget should include the cost of a hotel room for the Area Office Manager and the GSSA budget should include reimbursement for meals and mileage for the Area Office Manager (per the Area guidelines) for each day of attendance at the Convention.

Item 3- *The manual should be changed to provide rooms at the Prepaid for the "Office Committee" rather than "Area Officers". This would cover the room expense of #2 if the change is made as the Area Office Manager is a member of the Office Committee. The manual allows for rooms to be provided to the Area Officers.*

Jessica GSR- Motion to Adopt Item # 3 from the Prepaid Ad Hoc Committee Report
(Recording inaudible) GSR 2nd Motion
Motion carried by show of hands

Amended Motion Carried - Page 31, Item 5 of THE GEORGIA AA SERVICE MANUAL should be changed to substitute the term "State Officers" to Office Committee Members. Rooms will be furnished for Office Committee Members, Convention Chairperson, Co-Chair and all Speakers. Meals furnished for Speakers only.

Item 4 – *The Office Committee and Area Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs would be required to pay for a ticket to speaker dinners that maybe scheduled by the Prepaid Host Committee in honor of the speakers. Attendance would be voluntary for these members.*

Motion to Amend (Recording inaudible) GSR –Adopt item #4

THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA / PAGE 11

from the Ad Hoc Committee Report
(Recording inaudible) GSR 2nd the motion
Show of hands

Amended Motion Carried - If the Host Committee schedules a "Speaker Dinner" to honor the speakers and invites the Office Committee members, Area Committee Chairs and Co-chairs, and/or the Host Committee members (and their guests), attendance is voluntary and the Host Committee budget shall not include reimbursement for the cost of the meals provided for any attendee other than the speakers. All non-speakers shall pay for the cost of their meals.

Members requested if there could be another option to change the wording of an amended motion. This may be a simple wording change. Tom would recommend a Motion to Reconsider.

Item 5- *The manual should be changed to reflect a \$500 Prepaid Convention fund to be provided to the Host Committee. Any expense over \$500 will be sent to GSSA for payment. The Area Treasurer will review the Prepaid Committee expenditure report at least quarterly along with all receipts to back up expenses. The petty cash fund should be changed to the "Prepaid Convention Fund."*

Did not carry

Item 6 – *The Prepaid Convention finances will be carried out according to the amended manual recommendation in #5 of this document.*

Did not carry

Item 7- *The Prepaid Convention budget to be recommended to the Budget/Finance Committee by the Prepaid Committee Treasurer.*

Motion to amend - Tom B GSR
2nd Peg G GSR

Amended motion carried- The Prepaid Convention budget shall be developed by the Budget/Finance Committee in cooperation with the Host Committee Treasurer as the budget may be required to be modified from time-to-time.

Item 8 – *The Prepaid Committee should limit the number of committee members that are reimbursed to attend the Assembly. The following recommendation was made during the inventory process:*

The group created a chart of suggested attendance and reimbursement:

Past Chair	Current Chair & Co-Chair	Next Year Chair
Jan Assembly: Full (Sat. & Sun.)	Full	Mileage only(Sat)
May Assembly: Mileage Only (Sat)	Full	Mileage only(Sat)
Sep Assembly: Mileage Only (Sat)	Full	Mileage only

Full reimbursement is equivalent to mileage at \$0.32 per mile, 1 night room at the Marriott and \$40 for meals. Based on above chart, only 4 people are "required" (aka funded), others may come at Districts' and groups' expense.

Motion to Amend- Harold I –GSR
(Recording inaudible) GSR 2nd

Amended motion carried-Each Host Committee should limit the number of committee members that are reimbursed to attend the Assembly.

The following guidelines are suggested:

Assembly	Past Chair	Current Chair & Co-Chair	Next Year Chair
Jan	Full (Sat/Sun)	Full (Sat/Sun)	Mileage Only (Sat)
May	Not Funded	Full (Sat/Sun)	Full (Sat/Sun)
Sept	Not Funded	Full (Sat/Sun)	Full (Sat/Sun)

"Full" reimbursement is equivalent to (a) mileage (Area guidelines), (b) 1 room night at the GSSA rate at the Host Hotel and (c) meals (Area guidelines). Based on above chart, only 4 people are "required" (aka funded), others may come at Districts' and groups' expense.

Item 9- *Recommendation to strengthen the relationship between the Prepaid Committee and Host Committee:*

Office Committee liaison (Office Committee discretion to accommodate geography and availability) attend all meetings (we have this in place with the Alt Delegate, maybe the recommendation could be to add to the Alt Delegates Responsibilities)

Making clear in the Service Manual that Prepaid is not autonomous (suggestion: specify that Prepaid "serves" Area 16)

Include a Prepaid workshop at GSSA

Clarify Prepaid Committee and Office Committee in manual (Office Committee is clarified and doesn't need to be added, Prepaid Committee maybe can be outlined)

Use Skype or conference call technology to allow for remote participation for the Office Committee.

Frank S –GSR -Motion to amend

(Recording inaudible) GSR 2nd Motion

Amended motion carried- Recommendations to strengthen the relationship between the Office Committee and Host Committee:

A) At least one Office Committee member (designated to accommodate geography and availability) should attend all meetings of the Host Committee

B) Each Host Committee is encouraged to use Video Conferencing or conference call technology to allow for remote participation by members of the Office Committee. It is understood that each Host Committee is a service committee of, and shall report to, the Area Assembly.

Item 10- *The GSSA budget should be modified to accommodate travel reimbursement for the active participation of the Office Committee in the Prepaid Committee meetings*

Show of hands

Original motion passed

Item 11- *Modify the Manual to change: "All workshops and sharing session materials be based only on approved literature" to "All AA workshops and sharing session materials be based only on AA approved literature".*

Motion to amend-Chuck GSR

2nd- Nick GSR

Amended motion carried- Page 34, Item 11 of THE GEORGIA AA SERVICE MANUAL should be changed to read: "All AA workshops and sharing session materials should be based only on AA published literature".

THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA / PAGE 12

Item 12- Recommend adding to the Manual that the Pre-paid Convention start on Friday instead of Thursday due to low attendance and added expense.

Motion did not carry

NEW BUSINESS

Report of the Ad Hoc Committee to allow a candidate to stand for Alternate Delegate without the requirement of standing for Delegate.

Diane M thanked the members of the Ad Hoc committee and reviewed the motion. The team studied the qualifications of the Alternate Delegate and Delegate and voting procedures of GSO and GSSA. They reviewed 577 pages of minutes from previous assemblies. In the history of elections, GSSA began the current election process in 1969. Rebecca, current Delegate, polled other Areas. There is no consistent process. Our current process works and serves our area well. The Ad Hoc committee recommends we keep the voting procedure as it currently stands. We will vote on this in May. The report will be mailed to the DCMs.

Welcome and recognize new Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs

Treatment and Special Needs- John L., Chair; Don O., Co Chair

Corrections- Tim E., Chair; Cathy B., Co Chair

Web Committee- Brandon S- Webmaster

Jennifer Co-Webmaster

Georgia Message Editor- Jenine M

2017 Prepaid Bid- Tracy M., DCM 7 A

District 7A would like to bid to hold the 2017 Prepaid in Ma-

con at the Macon Marriott Hotel. The room rate for the Prepaid would be \$110 nightly. District 7A hosted the 2009 Prepaid and has experience. The host hotel is in a convenient location. There are many reasonably priced hotels nearby with room rates ranging from \$85 to \$120. District 7B will support 7A. There are many attractions nearby including the Macon Historic District, Georgia AA Archives, and the river walk. All AA members will have the opportunity to see where the Georgia State Service Assembly is located.

We will vote at the May assembly after the report.

Redistricting for Zones 1A and 1B- Tom H presented the redistricting plan presented by Zones 1A and 1B and unanimously voted on by the DCMs. All groups in Zones 1 A and 1B agreed to make the changes. Approved by a show of hands.

New Motion- Raz R GSR Tucker Group- Wording of motion is unclear. Requested Raz to take the motion back to his group for clarification. Raz agreed to table the motion to May or September. The Office Committee will assist with the wording of the motion.

Shannon GSR- Motion to close

Tom H, Assembly Chair, addressed a question regarding the status of the question about changes to *Alcoholics Anonymous* regarding numbering of pages for Dr's opinion. The fellowship historically has agreed that the pagination would include "Bill's Story" as page 1. Person who made the original motion to change withdrew the motion. This question has come up before and has never made it to the Assembly floor.

Bob – GSR 2nd Motion to close

Closed with Lord's Prayer in Spanish and English



Area 16, Georgia, and our International Convention Host Committee look forward to welcoming more than 50,000 AA members from around the world to Atlanta, Georgia, July 2-5, 2015.

Our Volunteer Kick-off Meeting on January 10, 2015 was a great success! We had about 1700 attendees at the Georgia World Congress Center. If you attended, you know that our volunteers will sign up online and select the committee (or two) that you would like to serve with. The first step is to visit www.aageorgia.org/international to sign up and select your committee. In April we will send you an email to let you know that you can pick your day and shift. You have to be signed up to get the email. The slots are first come, first serve.

The next volunteer activity will be the Volunteer Training on May 17, 2015, 2:00pm at the World Congress Center in Atlanta. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

For questions email atlanta2015aa@gmail.com. Registration for the convention is available at www.aa.org.