

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

Confidential for members  
November / December 2015  
Volume 49, Numbers 11-12

## Love and Service

By Rebecca T.  
Area 16 Delegate

Throughout my last 2 years of writing The GA Message of AA articles, I have used several Grapevine articles from Bill W. and Dr. Bob to remind me how this all started. Love and service is our code; however, gratitude is a big piece to service work. I am grateful to have had the privilege to carry Area 16's voice to the General Service Conference the last 2 years. Like so many things in AA, I am still amazed how these guiding principles stand the test of time in our changing world.

In June 1951, Bill W. wrote in the Grapevine "From this conference the saying "To Serve Is to Live" took on a deeper meaning for all who were there. We gladly accept our Third Legacy and may we guard it well and use it wisely. God grant that the Legacy of Service remain ever safe in our keeping. In that fine hour the torch of Service did pass from the hands of us who are older to yours, which are younger. It passes to every oncoming generation of those Children of the Night whose darkness, God willing, shall be ban-

ished within the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous all through the bright years which Destiny surely holds in store for us".

Then Dr. Bob gave us the September 24 Quote of the Day "Alcoholics Anonymous was nurtured in its early days around a kitchen table... True, we have progressed materially to better furniture and more comfortable surroundings. Yet the kitchen table must ever be appropriate for us. It is the perfect symbol of simplicity."

What an incredible year for Area 16! We are very blessed to have hosted the International Convention. It is hard to believe we are headed towards the end of 2015. For me, the spirit of rotation calls for a time of reflection. It is hard to place into words the gratitude for the experiences I have had throughout my term as serving as your **Delegate**. I had fear about standing for Delegate because there were several things which I did not think I could do. I was wrong. It took willingness, guidance from others, love/support from you and a loving God of my understanding, for which I am thankful. I

never have to be alone again, and all things are possible.

I am reminded of the long form of the Twelfth Tradition "And finally, we of Alcoholics Anonymous believe that the principle of anonymity has an immense spiritual significance. It reminds us that we are to place principles before personalities; that we are actually to practice a genuine humility. This to the end that our great blessings may never spoil us; that we shall forever live in thankful contemplation of Him who presides over us all."

May we continue with gratitude, for love and service is our code. I look forward to seeing you on the road to happy destiny.

I look forward to seeing you at the Assembly and the Cluster Forum.

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

## Gratitude-Humility-Grace

By Ernie M.  
Area 16 Alternate Delegate

Thank you for allowing me the privilege to serve as your Alternate Delegate for the past two years. I am filled with gratitude that Area 16 has blessed me with the opportunity to serve it as your Delegate as part of Panel 66 beginning in 2016. Rick M, our newly elected Alternate Delegate, and I are looking forward to preparing for the DCM Planning meeting on November 14th at the Macon office. What an opportunity for us to meet our current and incoming DCMs and Alternates for 2016.

During the November DCM meeting

we will begin planning the Cluster Forums for 2016, beginning with the Southwest Cluster **Forum** in Albany, hosted by Districts 1 & 2 in March. The theme for the 2016 Forums is "Connecting with the Newcomer, Each Other, and With AA as a Whole". The breakdowns of sub-topics can be found on page 7 of the Final Report of the 65<sup>th</sup> meeting of the General Service Conference of AA. Our Area Prepaid Convention was held in Columbus in October, and was enjoyed by all. Plans are coming together for the Prepaid in Augusta 2016 and Macon in 2017. We will be accepting bids for the 2018 convention at our Assembly in January. On

November 7th, District 17's Cluster Forum will be held in Doraville, GA. Rebecca and I will be attending the SSAASA (Southern States AA Service Assembly) in West Virginia at the end of November.

Let us not forget that November is Gratitude Month. Anything extra we can send to the Area and GSO will be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks to our Delegate, Rebecca T., for her dedication, demonstrated leadership, and guidance in helping me to be a better Trusted Servant. I am looking forward to meeting the Area's newest trusted servants (GSRs and Alternates) in January 2016.

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## TREASURER / [treasurer@aageorgia.org](mailto:treasurer@aageorgia.org)

### Tis' the Season to be Grateful

By Diane M.  
Area 16 Treasurer

Over the years I've heard "November is **Gratitude** Month in AA". I have had a simplistic view of what that meant. Each year around Thanksgiving we have more group discussions about gratitude, which I found helpful when faced with family drama, stress, and abundant alcohol. Thanksgiving kicked off the drinking events that lasted through the end of the year and, in my case, beyond. The constant discussions around gratitude were a valuable tool for me when surrounded by these issues.

This year I decided to look up "Gratitude Month" on [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) to learn about its history. I learned this tradition started in 1956 when the 6<sup>th</sup>

General Service Conference approved a motion to set aside Thanksgiving week as "AA Gratitude Week" where groups devoted meetings focused on "gratitude for the great gift of sobriety." The motion stipulated "this action be noted in the annual Pre-Thanksgiving appeals to the groups for funds to help support AA's worldwide services." The week of gratitude quickly became a month where we are encouraged to collect special contributions from the membership as a display of our gratitude for the AA program and our sobriety. These special contributions are used to supplement the normal group contributions in the spirit of the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition.

Let's embrace this tradition that started in 1956 and have special collections during Gratitude Month

to support the services provided by GSO, GSSA, and to display our gratitude for the AA Program.

### FROM YOUR EDITOR

This is my 7th edition of The Georgia **Message** of AA as your Area Editor. I have been gradually making changes to make it easier to read, more professional looking and hopefully, more enjoyable.

I've added a word search to each edition using key words from our Area Officer articles. My hopes are to tease the reader into reading each of these articles since this is where the clues can be found.

I've added a section on the first page "Inside this Issue". For those that are not regular readers and unfamiliar with its content and for those needing to look up information quickly.

This is your newsletter. If you would like to suggest changes to improve the experience, please email me and it will be discussed with the communications committee.

Since November is Gratitude Month, I want to take the opportunity to thank the contributors, the many editors, our Spanish translator, the GSSA office and the Communications Committee for all they do to help provide this service to Area 16.

— Jenine M., Area 16 Editor

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

### Opening Doors

By Deborah K.  
Area 16 Secretary

During our recent Area 16 Assembly our guest, trustee emeritus Ward Ewing, shared an incredible message. He stated that the "group opens doors to a new way of life". What a powerful honor and responsibility!

Of course, this got me thinking about my home group. "The very essence of AA strength has remained with our home group, which for many members becomes our extended family." My home group, the Turin Lost and Found group, has become my extended family. It is not only important for me to show up at my home group, it is vital for me to contribute to how well our group carry's the message of AA.

I, as a member of AA, must welcome the newcomer to my home group. In our pamphlet, the "AA Group: Where it All Begins", there are several questions groups can use in conducting a group inventory (p. 29). These are also useful guidelines for me to consider in my personal inventory as a group member.

What is the basic **purpose** of the group?

What more can the group do to carry the message?

Is our group attracting alcoholics from different backgrounds? Are we seeing a good cross-section of our community, including those with special needs?

Do new members stick with us, or does the turn-over seem excessive? If so, why? What can we do as a group to retain members?

At Assembly we were charged with carrying the message to 35 still suffering alcoholics. I've got my work cut out for me. But, with the help of my higher power and my home group, I can always start with one alcoholic at a time.

Please submit your district minutes to [districtminutes@aageorgia.org](mailto:districtminutes@aageorgia.org). Any group changes? Go to [aageorgia.org](http://aageorgia.org) and complete a Group Change Form.

## GRAPEVINE / [grapevine@aageorgia.org](mailto:grapevine@aageorgia.org)

### Way to go Georgia!

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

In response to the Grapevine and LaVina 2015 Subscription Challenge, Georgia has shown the greatest percentage increase so far in La Vina subscriptions – a whopping 82.61 percent! Let's keep up the good work as we encourage our groups to subscribe to La Vina. Even if your group has no Spanish speaking members (yet!), La Vina issues can be passed on to corrections, treatment centers, doctor's offices, health departments, or libraries to perform valuable 12<sup>th</sup> step work.

However, let's not rest on our laurels: Georgia's Grapevine subscriptions have only increased by 11.95 percent. While we are not at the very bottom of the subscription challenge, we can do better. Has your group subscribed to the Grapevine yet? This may be a good time to consider this. Grapevine issues make great additions to a newcomer packet, and can also be shared with the institutions listed above to keep on carrying the

message. One little subscription can do so much.

Have you read any of Grapevine's topic specific books? Grapevine has a brand new book called "Forming True Partnerships."

Grapevine describes this new title as a "collection of Grapevine stories shows the many ways members use the Twelve Steps, sponsorship, and the **tools** of the program to improve and repair relationships, old and new. When we were drinking, many of us had, as the Step Four chapter in the AA book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions puts it, "a total inability to form a true partnership with another human being." With candid and colorful stories on families, friendships, marriage, divorce, dating, romance, coworkers, sponsorship and pets, this book covers a wide range of experience from sober alcoholics on how we form true partnerships with others."

And finally, thank you all for the blessing and opportunity of serving as your Area 16 Grapevine Chair. It has enhanced my sobriety, and introduced me to so many new friends in recovery from all over the state. Love to you all, and see you on the road.



## Treatment [treatment@aageorgia.org](mailto:treatment@aageorgia.org)

### Another Exciting Year

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

Another year is coming to a close and the Treatment/Special Needs/Accessibilities Committee is excited about all the things going on. We're excited about the upcoming year! We will be looking for a location to host our 2016 Treatment/Special Needs/Accessibilities workshop and will bring the topic to the DCM planning meeting in November. If your District or Zone is interested in hosting the event for the upcoming year, please email us or let us know at the planning meeting. We've had some great events this past year and look forward to what next year has in store.

We are also excited that we now have new "**Bridging the Gap**" (BTG) pamphlets for both outside and inside member use. The outside pamphlet may be used in your district, zone, or group to have BTG volunteers fill out. They will be used when people in treatment make contact seeking a BTG contact. The inside pamphlets will be taken into residential facilities for patients to fill out. The BTG contact will help get the patient to meetings upon their release. We believe the first 24-48 hours is the most critical for a person to get to their first meeting after leaving treatment. The BTG program is a great way to help make sure that happens.

In closing, a reminder to all to make sure to check your meeting schedule at [aageorgia.org](http://aageorgia.org) to make sure your meeting place is handicap accessible and coded as such. HA is the coding for meetings that are fully accessible including the meeting room, restrooms, etc. This let's members who have mobility issues know that they can attend whether they use crutches, walkers, wheelchairs, or scooters. Thank you for allowing us to be of service. Contact us at [treatment@aageorgia.org](mailto:treatment@aageorgia.org) if we may be of service!

## PI/CPC / [picpc@aageorgia.org](mailto:picpc@aageorgia.org)

### How Do I do PI/CPC Work?

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

Bill W once wrote: "Public Information takes on many forms—the simple sign outside a meeting place that says: "AA Meeting tonight"; listings in local phone directories; distribution of AA literature; and radio and TV shows using sophisticated media techniques. What-ever the form, it comes down to one drunk carrying the message to another drunk, whether through personal contact or through the use of third parties and the media."

The question that is asked most often at our PICPC meetings is, "How to I begin to do PICPC

service work?" The suggestion is normally the same, to pick an area of interest and start from there. For myself I got sober young and seeing the message of AA being carried into schools by PICPC committees inspired me to get involved in this area of service.

During my two years serving this committee I have seen many new groups or districts PICPC reps attend our meeting for the first time. Several reps have been very overwhelmed as to where to start. After hearing the experience of others and reading some literature these reps often returned home with a new enthusiasm for carrying the message. Many now have some of the most active PICPC districts and groups in the area.

If you're interested in PICPC service work I encourage you to attend our assembly workshop, find your passion, and "keep it simple."



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

### 2015-Where Did it Go?

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

Here we are again. It's time to make a review of your Archives' projects for this year.

\* Digitizing of Area 16 Official Documents:  
This project is complete. All that's left are a few finishing touches. 200+ documents have been scanned and inventoried by category. These documents will be put into a searchable format.

\* Audio Tapes (reel-to-reel and cassettes):  
These are currently being inventoried into a database using information captured from the tape covers. Priority is being given to the reel-to-reels because of their age and physical condition. The database is reviewed and recordings are selected for capture based on their uniqueness and relevance to Georgia AA. Recordings of Assembly speakers, business meetings and any other official business on the reel-to-reel tapes have already been digitized and entered into the Archive audio database.

\* Installation of a formal archival inventory system:  
This project is in the beginning stages. We are looking for volunteers to help us with this project. Knowledge of the Dewey Decimal System would be very helpful. If you would be interested, let us know. International Convention **Memories**: Please share your memorable moments from the International Convention. Write them down and send them to Archives where they will be preserved for future generations. Send to: [archives@aageorgia.org](mailto:archives@aageorgia.org). On the subject line put "Memories".

In closing, I express my heartfelt gratitude for the opportunity to serve this membership as your Archivist Committee Co-Chair and Chair these past four years. This has been a truly life-changing experience. Thank you.

The next chapter will be written by our incoming Chair, Gary N., who will be assuming the stewardship of your Archives. He will bring years of research and study of AA history to the table. It will be quite a ride, so fasten your seatbelts.

## 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.*

Lynne S., who has graciously stepped up to take over those duties.

The past several years have flown by, as have the many Area Assemblies. While I can assure you I am looking forward to a little rest, I must admit that I am hooked. While I may not have an "official" job, I plan on seeing all of you in January.

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

### Get the Gifts

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

The year 2015 is coming to an end, as is my service commitment as Communications Committee Chair. As I rotate out, I would like to thank all of you in Area 16 for allowing me to be of service. Much has been accomplished in the years I have been associated with the committee, and I am pleased I have been a small part of those accomplishments.

I take away far more than a mere list of things we did. However, I am in awe of just how much being of service has done for my sobriety and the many friends I have made by being involved. I feel like I have grown so

much, and I move on having received far more than I have given! It has been a pleasure serving, and I hope everyone will dive headfirst into service and get the **gifts** I have received.

The Communications Committee will be in very good hands with Ron G. as Chair. As Co-Chair, Ron has been invaluable. I don't know how I would have managed without him. Look to the future for great things to happen. At the end of the year, we will also be saying goodbye to Richard S., our translator for the assemblies, the prepaid and other functions. Many thanks go out to Richard for his many years of service. Be sure to be at the January Assembly to meet

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

**Finding Utopia**

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

"Most of us feel we need look no further for Utopia. We have it with us right here and now. Each day my friend's simple talk in our kitchen multiplies itself in a widening circle of peace on earth and good will to men." *Alcoholic's Anonymous*, p. 16.

Those of us that do service in Corrections get to see miracles all around us. I recall having a Bridge the Gap request from a female inmate who would be returning to a District in which there were not many AA corrections volunteers. I decided I would simply cold call a member who I had found a phone number for in the directory. I asked if she would be willing to help us with the request. When I called and let the member know what I needed, her reply was "It is a real coinci-

dence that you called today. I was praying this morning for God to send me somebody to work with and you called!"

Another time when I had come home after a busy day and a long drive to and from a prison meeting there was a message waiting for me. It was from a prior inmate at a facility into which I took meetings. The message only contained a photo of a one year chip. He didn't have to write anything for me to understand the power of that moment.

So many members tell of finding AA in prison. Once the message was delivered and received, they talk of receiving a freedom that no pardon could ever have achieved.

Please come walk with us on our spiritual **journey** of service in Corrections. Please feel free to contact us.

**MACON MARRIOTT  
CITY CENTER  
RESERVATIONS**

**NEED A ROOM AT THE  
MARRIOTT FOR  
ASSEMBLY?**

**CALL (478) 621-5300,  
PLEASE REMEMBER  
TO TELL THEM THAT  
YOU ARE WITH THE  
GEORGIA STATE SER-  
VICE ASSEMBLY, TO  
GET THE GROUP  
RATE.**

**THE CUT OFF DATE IS  
December 16th, 2015.**

**CALENDAR of EVENTS**

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

|                       |                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>November 7</b>     | <b>District 17 Forum (Espanol)</b><br>Doraville                                                          |
| <b>November 7</b>     | <b>4<sup>th</sup> Annual Gratitude Dinner</b><br>Fish Camp, Albany                                       |
| <b>November 14</b>    | <b>DCM Planning Meeting</b><br>Macon / GSSA 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.                                          |
| <b>November 20-22</b> | <b>SSAASA</b><br><b>(Southern States AA Service Assembly)</b><br>Huntington, WV<br>8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. |
| <b>December 3-6</b>   | <b>Woodstock of the South</b><br>Buford                                                                  |

The deadline for the articles for the message for Jan. and Feb. is Dec 1<sup>st</sup>. There is no subscription fee for this newsletter, however all contributions are appreciated.

Please Mail to: G.S.S.A., P. O. Box 7325, Macon, Ga. 31209

## THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA / PAGE 6

### Birthday Contributions

#### District 3, Zone D

Happy Hour Group

Jack C. – July 21, 1996

12 & 12 Group

Judy H. – August 12, 2002

Thomas H. – August 13, 2004

#### District 6

College Step Study Group

David W. – July 4, 1998

#### District 7, Zone A

New Beginnings Group

Ronny H. – September 1, 1988

#### District 8

I Am Responsible Group

Ken P. – September 6, 2006

Ivan J. – July 29, 2010

Tennille Big Book Group

Grant C. – June 1976

#### District 10, Zone A

We Can Help Group

Anonymous – July 23, 1996

#### District 10, Zone D

No Matter What Group

Jennifer W. August 5, 2009

#### District 11, Zone A

AA Solutions Group

Mario L. – June 11, 1986

Debra L. – August 4, 1991

#### District 11, Zone B

Covington Group

Danny D.

Twelve-Step Sisters Group

Katherine S. – July 28, 1980

#### District 14, Zone A

Young Winners In Action Group

David J.

#### District 16, Zone B

Alumni Group

Randy P. – August 17, 1991

Lumpkin Street Noon Timers

Jim T. – August 1, 2007

#### District 16, Zone E

A Vision For You Group

Kelly W. – August 1, 2006

Morning Miracles Group

Karen S.

### New Groups

#### District 2 Zone A

Ocilla Crossroads Group

S. Beach St.

Ocilla, GA 31774

Sunday at 7:00 p.m. open 12 Step Study

#### District 13 Zone F

Fresh Start Group

8712 Tara Boulevard

Jonesboro, GA

Tuesday – Thursday 2:00 p.m., Saturday at noon

#### District 13 Zone J

AA of Ivy Walk Group

2134 Monhegan Way

Smyrna, GA 30080

Monday – Thursday 9:00 a.m. closed

#### District 16 Zone B

Hokey Pokey Group

4056 Lexington Rd.

Athens, GA 30605

Wednesday at noon open discussion

### Things We Cannot Change

#### Dean K.

Sobriety Date – September 2014 “38 years”

Passed – November 27, 2014

Home Group – REDMOND

Rome, GA

#### Jewel C.

Sobriety Date – October 28, 1990

Passed – September 28, 2015

Home Group – Southside

Savannah, GA

### HOW TO CONTACT TRUSTED SERVANTS

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

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

### WORD SEARCH

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

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| c | b | r | i | d | g | i | n | g | t |
| s | m | e | m | o | r | i | e | s | d |
| e | g | r | a | t | i | t | u | d | e |
| r | y | e | n | r | u | o | j | x | l |
| v | p | u | r | p | o | s | e | a | e |
| i | f | j | t | c | f | n | w | t | g |
| c | z | d | r | o | v | o | p | h | a |
| e | t | v | i | a | o | t | r | z | t |
| u | g | i | f | t | s | l | v | u | e |
| m | e | s | s | a | g | e | s | j | m |

## **THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA / PAGE 7**

Georgia Area Assembly  
Business Meeting  
Sunday, September 20, 2015

### **DELEGATE'S REPORT-Rebecca T- Panel 64 Area 16 Delegate**

Good Morning

My name is Rebecca Thomason and I am an Alcoholic. It is my pleasure to serve as your area delegate.

What an incredible summer which started off with the 80<sup>th</sup> International Convention. Thank you again for all of your service. I received several notes from other delegates thanking us for the great job of hosting the world! There is a nice write up regarding the 80<sup>th</sup> International in Box 459 "The Fall 2015" edition. GSRs I hope you are receiving and sharing BOX 459 "News and Notes from the General Service Office of A.A." with your home groups. Individual members may sign up as well.

The Northwest Cluster Forum was in Douglasville, with a great turn out and lots of first time attendees. There were individual and group presentations plus a skit. The last Cluster Forum for this year will be November 7<sup>th</sup> in Doraville.

I traveled to Memphis for the 71<sup>st</sup> Southeastern Conference also named "The Granddaddy of Them All" (map).

The first Southeastern Conference was held 1944, in Birmingham, AL with Marty Mann in attendance.

In 1951 the Southeastern Conference was held at the Biltmore Hotel in Atlanta. At the conference Bill W. was in attendance and Area 16 joined the General Service Conference. Gary N. – Archives Co-Chair sent me additional information on the 1951 Southeastern Conference. The attendance was reported to be around 1,000 alcoholics. "Gov. Talmadge told members of Alcoholics Anonymous meeting here Thursday night "the use of narcotics and excessive use of alcohol are the two greatest menaces of the day." The Governor's address highlighted the opening session of a four-day program of Regional AA Conference."

Over the years the Southeastern Conference went from sharing sessions and service workshops to being held in conjunction with State Convention where the areas added in service workshops between speaker meetings. In recent years the combination of service workshops on the Traditions and Concepts along with a State Convention has not been working. As a region, the topic has been brought up several times at the Delegates Get Together or at the General Service Conference. A few years back no Area raised their hand to host the Southeastern Conference after 2015.

On Saturday afternoon we held the business meeting which included a report from our current Southeast Trustee- Chet P. After Conference, the next board weekend is focused primarily on the review and follow-up on the 2015 Conference

AAWS Reports:

The construction process to bring AA Grapevine onto the 11<sup>th</sup> floor begins August 10<sup>th</sup>, divided into 5 phases with completion due by the end of November. Due to construction, visitors will have limited access and group tours will be suspended.

Archives: a new digital exhibit on the website: "A.A.'s 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary" and an audio talk of Sister Ignatia at the Longbeach International Convention.

The Navajo translation of the Big Book is back in operation after losing its principal translator. Now with 2 translators and an active committee.

Financial: Net Revenues for the first 6 months were about \$ 7.5M, which is about 8.5 % less than budget; expenses were \$ 7.7M, or about 5% less than budget. Shipping costs are down \$ 174K from budget, due to switching vendors.

Mid-year budget adjustments required as a result of Conference actions total \$ 184K - \$120K for Translation of Conference Kit. \$24K voice over for PSA "Doors". \$40K centrally track PSA "Doors".

The Reserve Fund had a balance on June 30<sup>th</sup> of about \$ 15.5M which represents about 10 months of operating expenses. The upcoming construction project will bring that total down. (The actual number is \$ 17.5M, but that includes Grapevine's unfulfilled subscription fund.)

The feasibility study sub-committee reported that it has a goal of having something that can be presented to the 2016 Conference for input. Areas of concern are apparent lack of growth of the Fellowship, decline in literature sales, and increasing operating expenses.

International: Members of the GSO (normally the trustee-at-large) and/or GSO general manager visit other AA service structures. Upcoming trips for the balance of the year are the Annual Italian Convention, the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Americas (REDELA) in Mexico City, the 18<sup>th</sup> European Service Meeting in York, England, the 11<sup>th</sup> Asia-Oceania Service Meeting in Dubai, and the 44<sup>th</sup> Polish General Service Conference.

The committee considered the idea of an interactive international A.A. data map that could include information by country about A.A. presence, available translations, zonal meeting, and World Service Meeting participation, and asked for additional information for consideration at their next meeting.

International Conventions/Regional Forums: Registration for the International Convention last month in Atlanta was approximately 57,000 including 784 registered attendees designated ASL. Over 1,000 people participated as speakers or

## **THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA / PAGE 8**

chairs in about 250 A.A. meetings, panels, marathons and the Big Meeting.

93 flags were displayed at the flag ceremony, in addition to the Eagle Staff representing Native American/First Nations. (One of my favorite parts on the international.)

The committee tabled a discussion on the closings at the Big Meeting (i.e., Lord's Prayer, Responsibility Statement, Serenity Prayer) for October.

Literature: Subcommittees have been formed to work on three literature projects: the revision of the pamphlet "A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic" to include the entire LGBT community; revision of the pamphlet "A.A. for the Woman", and development of literature for the alcoholics with mental health issues. In Box 459, fall issue, they are requesting stores regarding these 3 pamphlets.

Following up on the Conference Committee's additional committee consideration regarding systematic review of recovery literature, Michele Grinberg, class "A" trustee, has been appointed to work with staff to develop a plan.

Development of a service piece for use by mental health professionals has been forwarded to CPC Committee.

Nominating: a subcommittee has been formed to review options for filling an unexpected vacancy of a regional trustee with a full-term replacement.

Publishing: Sales are well under budget. June was an uptick, but July doesn't look good. For the first 6 months sales are \$ 6.5M which is \$ 1M (about 9%) below budget of \$ 7.5M.

About 2100 of the 75th Commemorative Editions were sold at the International Convention.

The Big book is translated in 69 languages, other literature in 89 languages. There are 15 languages pending at this time. The translation from the Cook Islands is problematic.

Translation of the Conference Kit is under study using both in-house translators and contracted professional translators

The AAWS Board approved pricing the PSA "Doors" at \$ 10.00 and can be viewed on [aa.org](http://aa.org).

Conference: A subcommittee was formed to follow up on Conference Agenda Committee input regarding the agenda item selection process.

A subcommittee was formed to follow up on the Conference Advisory Action to create a plan to translate all Conference material into Spanish and French.

The committee forwarded a request to AAWS for the development of an AA Guideline "that lays out what YPAA is, how it operates, what its relationship to the fellowship and service structure might be and how young people would go about finding and joining their area YPAA."

CPC/Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities: The committee voted to remove the pamphlet "Three Talks to Medical Societies by Bill W." from the CPC kit due to concerns about language and relevance as a CPC tool.

In response to another Conference Additional Committee consideration, the Trustees' committee formed a subcommittee to review the current selection of pamphlets in the CPC kit

In response to an Additional Committee Consideration from the Conference Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities Committee regarding how to better realize the commitment to make A.A. available to all, as well as the need to focus on the concept of overcoming barriers in accessing, receiving, and carrying the A.A. message, rather than the limiting concept of identifying "Special need" the Trustees' committee asked staff to explore options for renaming the committee and formed a subcommittee to revise the Trustees' Committee's scope and to move forward on revising and reorganizing the Special Needs-Accessibilities Workbook.

Corrections: The committee agreed to add an issue of "La Vina" to the English and French language Corrections Kit.

Public Information: Staff reported that the new P.S.A. "Doors" has been broadcast very quickly with over 11 million people have seen it in the first month of broadcast.

A subcommittee was appointed to review the P.I. Comprehensive Media Plan, included in the discussion that led to this action was the additional committee consideration regarding potential uses of social media and social networking platforms. Planning has begun for a request for sharing regarding the use of social media for PI purposes: JUST INFORMATION GATHERING!

Grapevine:

The *Language of the Heart* is now available in audio format -both MP3 and CD on [aagrapevine.org](http://aagrapevine.org).



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The *Carry the Message* effort has forwarded 593 subscription requests to Delegates who can channel those requests to local service committees and Area Grapevine chairs areas for possible fulfillment at the local level with an option to return unfulfilled requests to AAGV, Inc. On a side note here in Area 16 your contributions allowed our Corrections committee to provide subscriptions to several inmates.

The subscription challenge numbers are on [aagrapevine.org](http://aagrapevine.org) so you can see how the state, provinces, and territories are responding to this effort.

*Grapevine* circulation is 77,734. This is a decline from average circulation of 79,954 but is better than the budgeted circulation of 76,061. *La Vina* circulation is 10,310 compared to 10,515 in 2014 and a budgeted circulation of 10,607. Total *Grapevine* income for the first six months is about \$ 945K compared to budgeted income of \$ 950K. Total costs and expenses however were about \$ 854K or \$ 138K less than budget. The overall effect is a net profit of \$ 92K rather than the budgeted \$ 42K loss. The *La Vina* shortfall is about \$ 18K less than budgeted.

The *Grapevine* board and staff continue to focus on the future, including working to deliver a "mobile friendly" version of the magazines and exploring the possible use of SMS text messaging as a way to engage the Fellowship.

After Chet's report, he opened the floor for any business regarding the Southeastern Conference. Since no area raised their hand to support the conference again, this was the last one, which was bitter sweet.

Not all is lost; 6 years ago a couple of Areas in the Southeast region started Southern States Alcoholic Anonymous Service Assembly – SSAASA. This is not yet a Southeast Region event; however, Area 16 has supported the service assembly. SSAASA will be held this year Nov 20 – 22 in Huntington, WV. The weekend will have sharing from GSR, DCM, different committee chairs, registrars and Delegates. The host committee selects presenters from people who have registered and their current service position. All are welcome to attend. Please come join Ernie and myself to represent Area 16. August 7<sup>th</sup>, I received a note from GSO naming the new General Manager – Greg Tobin. Greg comes to this position with 35 years of experience in leadership positions and since 1986 has been actively involved in service. Also, he has also been part of Grapevine Editorial Advisory Board, A.A. Grapevine Board and General Service Trustee on the General Service Board.

**GSO Staff Updates** - On September 14<sup>th</sup>, GSO will rotate desk assignments. The idea of rotating staff started 1951 – re-emphasizing the importance of the message over the messenger and broadening the pool of knowledge and experience among staff. You may read more about the new staff assignments in *Box 459* – fall issue. There will be 2 new staff members, Jeffery W. starting Oct 5<sup>th</sup> and Sandra W. moving over to staff from GSO general manager admin on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. According to the final Conference report, Area 16 GA had the highest percent of group's contributing in the U.S. with 61.3%!! Canada had a few Areas which were a little higher. Thank you for your contributions. The amount of the contribution is secondary the fact of the contribution which unites all groups.

Today we will elect a new Delegate. Please keep in mind we will follow the Third Legacy voting procedure with the option of going to the hat for the top 2 qualified candidates. At Conference, I had the pleasure of witnessing the Third Legacy voting procedure in action which took a little longer; however when the name was pulled from the hat it was a spiritual experience.

It is hard to describe the experiences and blessings I have received over the past 2 years serving as your Delegate. Love and Service is our code and it comes with sacrifice. I am truly grateful for the people who have supported me from my sponsor, sponsee's, friends, home group, past delegates, my family and all of you, members of Area 16.

Several of you may have read the footprints poem. I will not read it all; however I heard a new verse added after the response from the Higher Power "*The times when you have seen only one set of footprints, is when I carried you.*"

*Once entering the doors of AA and then entering into to service the footprints began to swirl I asked my God why such a pattern? "He responded with we began to dance."*

Thank you for the privilege to represent Area 16 on Panel 64 and the dance of a life time!

**Recognition of Past Officers**- Tom H- Brookins B-Past Delegate, David S-Past Delegate, David M-Past Delegate, Gene T -Past Treasurer, Harold I-Past Treasurer, Bill M-Past Treasurer, Katie M-Past Secretary, Glenda M-Past Secretary and Office Manager, Randy S-Past Delegate, Judy T- Past Secretary

**Approval of Minutes from May 2015 Business Meeting**- Tom H- No amendments to the minutes as published in the July/August Message. Approved by a show of hands

62nd Georgia Pre-Paid Convention (October 16 - 18, 2015)-**Jodi W, Prepaid Chair**

We are so excited to host your 62<sup>nd</sup> Georgia Prepaid convention in Columbus on Friday, Saturday and Sunday October 16 - 18, 2015!

### **Entertainment**

Golf – 18 holes; between \$36; T-time is 8:30; 18 signed up

Motorcycle Poker Run - (12 signed up) - \$20 per person.

White Water Rafting \$22 and Zip Line \$30; Make reservation in advance. You may not get a spot if you wait until Saturday. Reserve directly with <http://www.whitewaterexpress.com/chattahoochee/>

Cycling – (29 signed up) – \$20 rental fee (24 hours); 9:00 AM; rental can be done on Friday (Ride on Bikes)

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Walk on the Riverwalk (63 signed up) – 9:00 in front of Trade Center  
DJ Saturday; Karaoke Friday

### Program

#### Friday, October 16, 2015

12:00 noon - Registration Opens  
4:00 pm – Lisa W. (AA Speaker)  
7:30 pm – Tim T. (AA Speaker)  
9:30 pm – Entertainment

#### Saturday, October 17, 2015

11:00 am – Bo T. (Al-Anon Speaker)  
4:00 pm – Lillie H. (AA Speaker)  
5:30 pm – Dinner with the speakers  
7:30 pm – Don L. (AA Speaker)  
10:00 pm – Entertainment

#### Sunday, October 18, 2015

10:00 am – Danny B. (AA Speaker)

There will be AA and Al-Anon discussion meetings in separate rooms at the Trade Center throughout the convention. This will include 1 Spanish speaking meeting and 1 Traditions play.

### Hospitality

Saturday night dinner with the Speakers - \$26 fee due with registration. The dinner must be paid for by September 20, 2015. Dinner buffet – fried chicken, salad, fruit, beef tips, wild rice, mac & cheese, steamed veggies, assorted desserts, coffee, tea, rolls

Hospitality Room – We will be serving coffee in the hospitality room at the Trade Center. We will not have food in the hospitality room at the Trade Center. Additionally, there will not be food sales at the Trade Center. There are many affordable restaurants within walking distance of the Trade Center.

### Lodging

We have 2 host hotels – The Columbus Marriott across the street from the venue (which is full) and another 1 mile down – the Courtyard Marriott across the river in Phenix City - (which is also full). We will have a hospitality room at the hotel in Phenix City with water, coffee and snacks. When making your hotel reservations, be sure to request the Georgia State Pre-Paid Convention room rate.

| Hotel                                               | Address/Phone                                                                         | Rates | Distance from Venue |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|---------------------|
| Marriott Columbus (Downtown) <b>Host Hotel</b>      | 800 Front Ave <a href="tel:706-324-1800">706-324-1800</a>                             | \$139 | .40 miles           |
| Courtyard Marriott in Phenix City <b>Host Hotel</b> | 1400 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ave, Phenix City, AL <a href="tel:334-664-9840">334-664-9840</a> | \$119 | 1.08 miles          |
| Doubletree Hotel                                    | 5351 Sydney Simons Blvd <a href="tel:706-327-6868">706-327-6868</a>                   | \$109 | 4.38 miles          |
| Days Inn (Downtown)                                 | 1325 Veterans Pkwy <a href="tel:706-322-2522">706-322-2522</a>                        | \$79  | .71 miles           |
| Howard Johnson Inn & Suites                         | 1011 Veteran's Pkwy <a href="tel:706-322-6641">706-322-6641</a>                       | \$65  | .30 miles           |
| Holiday Inn Columbus North                          | 2800 Manchester Expwy <a href="tel:706-324-0231">706-324-0231</a>                     | \$99  | 3.78 miles          |

### Registration

Online registration and the convention flyer are available on the GSSA website. 620 people have registered for the convention, including 9 people with special needs. Please go back to your groups and encourage people to register.

Thank you so very much for giving Columbus the opportunity to serve you by hosting our 62<sup>nd</sup> excited Georgia Pre-Paid Convention. See you in Columbus in October!

**2015 International Convention Final Report-Patty L-Chair of Host Committee for International Convention-** Privilege to chair the Host Committee along with Tom Hoban, Jim Turner, Lori Grace, Bill Fries who served on the Core Committee. 57,000 attendees, 93 countries. 5500 from Georgia-almost 5000 volunteers. Recognized those who volunteered and wore green shirts. Hard to describe the feeling I got volunteering and to see you! Incredible experience-positive comments from everyone through email and phone calls. I was flooded with positive emails from around the country. 32 people on the Host Committee. We had a banner in the Volunteer Headquarters signed by volunteers which will be donated to our Georgia Archives. We also have another banner that will be donated to GSO for their archives. Both have signatures from all over the world. You might even see yours on there. (Banner presented) We did well! We showed up! I hope if you were able to go, you had a great experience, I know I did. Thank you very much!

**Ward Ewing – Class A Trustee-** I'm Ward, a non-alcoholic trustee for the General Service Board, emeritus. First, let me let me thank you for the invitation. It's been wonderful to be here to see some old friends and to make some new friends, to make some new friends among you. I've had some wonderful conversations. I'm incredibly impressed with your Area. You are alive and well! I understand that the number of groups has increased every year and you are out there carrying the message. I thought you would be absolutely exhausted after the International, and we would have about six people here.

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Your work at the International was a reflection of your life together, clearly. To get five thousand, five hundred volunteers? No, three thousand volunteers, 5000 people; did I get that? Up to five thousand volunteers. That's incredible; that's incredible! And, it reflects not that people got their arms twisted; it reflects the kind of care and desire involved in service that I have experienced this weekend as well. So, it's wonderful to be with you and I thank you for your service.

My earlier remarks yesterday were about the organization of AA and then the sharing of my own story and what this fellowship has meant to me last night. I would like to take just a few minutes in this closing sharing to talk about our mission, our primary purpose. You know there's a lot of opportunity to carry out our primary purpose. To use some real numbers, the population in the US and Canada is a little over 350 million people and if we take the most conservative number I can come up with, 10% of the population are presently in trouble with alcohol and drug abuse, well with alcohol abuse. That means there's 35 million people who need to hear the message of hope. In A.A. US and Canada, there are about 1.4 million members. That means for each of you, each member of Alcoholics Anonymous, there's 25 people who need to hear the message of hope. There is ample opportunity for us to carry out our primary purpose. And, if you take the world population, it becomes 350 for every member of Alcoholics Anonymous. There is ample opportunity and there's great need. Now, I share those numbers; I don't want that to be a kind of let's get the 'guilt and the obligation whips' out; that never has worked. But rather, to simply say, let's get free about sharing our stories and nurturing our groups. Because those are the tools that we have for carrying the message-sharing our stories and living in our groups. The story is so important. I shared last night that I can't do that because I speak out of my head about alcohol and alcoholism, and that does not touch another person's heart in the way when they hear their story on your lips and they see someone who is joyous, happy, and free. That's where hope is born. When they hear that story from you, because that is not from intellect, that is a heart to heart conversation. Bill W describes it in *AA Comes of Age* about his conversation, his first conversation with Dr. Bob, and why it worked when all of those attempts before had not worked. He writes. "You see our talk was a completely mutual thing. I knew that I needed this alcoholic as much as he needed me. *This was it*. This mutual give-and-take is at the very heart of all of AA's Twelfth Step work today. The final missing link was located right there in my first talk with Dr. Bob." (p70) It is that mutuality, that sharing of one's own story so that the other person, who might also be vulnerable, shares their story and catches a vision of hope.

That kind of mutuality forms the basis for our groups. Because the groups are where the stories are told and shared and where the stories are listened to. One of the most powerful tools we have in this fellowship is the ability to listen to one another. Because it's in sharing the story and listening, the group becomes a place where doors are opened to a new way of life. A way that is preserved in and handed on through the community which is a group, which is actually a group spirit that is larger than the individual group.

I hope you all read Rebecca's article that's on the front page of the Georgia Message, September/October -that sounds like it's the most current one, on unity, on our 1<sup>st</sup> Tradition. Because, when we look at the group, it's that unity that brings the power. But, that unity does not depend upon agreement. As Bill says, not as Bill, but as the Big Book says, "We are people who normally would not mix...." Probably no truer words were ever written. And yet, there is a unity, and a solidarity, and a fellowship that transcends any other kind of a group that I've ever been a part of. It's a little like family, you have to take somebody in if they say they want to stop drinking. Doesn't matter how they smell or how they're dressed or what kind of degrees or education or job they've had- if they say they want to stop drinking, they are a part of us. That's all it takes. Our unity does not depend upon intellectual agreement or insight or rules. It comes from sharing our stories in a vulnerable way and, out of that sharing, experiencing our strength and hope.

So there's lots of work to do -25 people, each of you, this month, right? We've been given two incredibly powerful tools- the sharing and listening to each other's stories and being a part of the fellowship where doors are opened to a new way of life that is preserved and passed on through this fellowship. I thank you for allowing me to be a part of this incredibly powerful movement that is changing our world. Thank you

### We Share II Report- Ron G

It's an honor and a privilege to be of service to Area 16. In the spring of the year, I got one of those text messages from Rebecca-one of those where I wonder what I'm involved with now, and I don't know what's coming. She asked me to help steward through the activities with *We Share II*. *We Share*, for those who don't know, back in 1995, a volume was published with the history of the groups of AA in this area, Area 16-about 300 pages long and it had those histories. And back in somewhere around 2012, a decision was made to update that and groups throughout the area sent in their histories, some were updates to their histories that were there and some were new histories from new groups or groups that hadn't chosen to participate in *We Share I*. And those were accumulated and they were worked on. The volume *We Share I* was only available in print; we did not have an electronic version- those things we use now which are easy to use to make updates. And so there was some work that had to be done to repair that to get new histories and updates. Somewhere along the way, we found out that not as much of that happened as we would like and I was asked to pick that up. I would like to give you an update. We have made some progress. We have an electronic version that I would guess is somewhere around 60% complete. It's all been OCR'd and we are in the process of correcting all those little errors and getting in formatted so it is easy to update and all. I have a list of groups with updates or new histories. But we couldn't locate all of those. And so there was an effort made to find all of those histories. Well, I am down to eighteen that I have not been able to find. And in the Communications meeting earlier in the assembly, I said there were eighteen groups and we'll do some effort in the

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course of the next month to try to locate those groups or representatives of those groups to see if we can find those histories, or even make new ones and put those into the volume.

We have a staff now that is working diligently. We have a person who is doing all the conversion to electronic format. We have two folks who are working to do the initial editing of all those histories that were sent in and we are probably about, I would guess, 80% complete in that activity. They are still working on some, especially the ones that have just been located. We have a process by which we'll do the integration of those histories into the electronic version. That's been tested and seems to work and there are a couple of folks who are going to do the integration so we have a staff that has been identified there. And then the next activity is to do the final edit when that is put together. There are a couple of folks who are identified to do that activity and I have found a couple more. That is a big activity; it requires reading what is not going to be about a 350 -400 page volume. And to make sure that it all hangs together. We will then take that to a printer. We had a printer who did the original but we will do the update. We did not take it because we did not have the electronic version but we are getting very close to be able to sit down with a printer to get a commitment on time and cost. That's all to say that it's not ready yet but it's making good progress. We are in a much better place than we were in the spring. We have a good group of volunteers that have done a lot of work and a lot of effort's gone into improving our position.

I would hope that when I come before you during the January Assembly to have a book that I could show you or at least have a date that I could say that that book is going to show up on Tamara's doorstep for distribution throughout the fellowship in this Area. And we made progress, I wish to say that I had a date to give to you or a volume before you to show you. What I can tell you is that a lot of effort's gone into improving our position and that we're getting close. We are getting much closer than we were in the spring. I appreciate all those groups who have tolerated the delay because there had been a number of groups, and individuals, that have committed to purchasing. In fact, some had forwarded money for the purchase and that commitment will be fulfilled, sometime early next year is my sincerest hope. If you have questions, you can reach me through [communications@aageorgia.org](mailto:communications@aageorgia.org). That will eventually come into my hands and I will get you a response back. If you are awaiting the version and you have groups that have questions, forward those to me and I'll make sure there are answers. I thank you for your understanding and I hope to stand before you in the first Assembly next year and give you a volume of *We Share II*. Thanks

### **AREA OFFICER REPORTS:**

**Alt Delegate** : Ernie M- It's been a privilege to serve over the last two years as your Alternate Delegate. Update on events around the state- Want to thank Tamara and her volunteers for her work in getting the assembly together. Her work on the office committee and the agenda. We couldn't do without Tamara.

Oct 15-18<sup>th</sup> 62nd Prepaid Convention in Columbus

Nov 7<sup>th</sup> District 17(Spanish-linguistic district) Cluster forum

Nov 14<sup>th</sup>-DCM Planning Meeting-GSSA Office Macon

Nov 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>-SSASSA- Huntington, West Virginia

If anyone knows any other upcoming events, State sponsored or big events for 2016, send to me [alternatedelegate@aageorgia.org](mailto:alternatedelegate@aageorgia.org). Send them to Tamara or myself so we can get them on the calendar.

### **Secretary-** Debi K

#### **Attendance at September Assembly:**

DCMs-44

Alt DCMs-25

District Secretary/Treasurer-1

GSRs-235

Alt GSRs-64

Group Secretary/Treasurer-24

Grapevine Reps-6

Treatment Facilities Reps-6

Correctional Facilities Reps-5

Communications-2

PI/CPC Reps-5

Archives Reps-2

Members at Large-56

TOTAL ATTENDANCE-475 Increase from September(418) Thank you for supporting our Georgia Area Assembly.

Submit Minutes to [districtminutes@aageorgia.org](mailto:districtminutes@aageorgia.org)

Check email- [aageorgia.org](http://aageorgia.org)

Please check with your DCMs to correct/update information in the "black folder" to turn into the state office. It is very important that still suffering alcoholics can locate your group. Indicate whether your meeting is special needs accessible.

**Treasurer:** Diane M- Area 16 Treasurer

Detailed reports, templates presented at yesterday's Secretary/treasurer workshop will be available online in a few days.



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We are presenting summary information for GSRs which is in your packets (see below). The first item shows the budget from 2014-2015-2016 with all of the details. And then the net change 2016 versus 2015.

The next thing I'd like to bring your attention to is the first line; it's right underneath the column totals-Contributions. You can see what we're expecting to change in contributions.

Next, we have the Committees. This is just a summary of what you normally receive on your budget. All of your committees. You can see how that's changed over time. And then the total Committee expenses.

Our Literature section...

And, what we all want to see, what's most important for us, is the New Income.

Budget Comparison by Committee 2014 through 2016

|                              | Description                           | 2014            | 2015            | 2016           | Net Change 2016 vs 2015 |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| 1 - Discuss column headers   | Contributions                         | 143,000         | 150,800         | 164,395        | 13,595                  |
| 2 - Contributions            | <b>Total Contribution Income</b>      | <b>143,000</b>  | <b>150,800</b>  | <b>164,395</b> | <b>13,595</b>           |
| 3 - Category - Description   | Office Committee                      | 11,420          | 12,445          | 8,470          | (3,975)                 |
|                              | Assembly Services                     | 41,237          | 36,393          | 39,570         | 3,177                   |
|                              | General Office                        | 97,275          | 100,114         | 99,318         | (796)                   |
|                              | Archives                              | 2,847           | 2,150           | 5,118          | 2,968                   |
|                              | Corrections                           | 2,713           | 3,600           | 3,500          | (100)                   |
|                              | Grapevine                             | 1,790           | 1,950           | 1,950          | -                       |
|                              | Miscellaneous                         | 8,000           | 4,200           | 3,900          | (300)                   |
|                              | PI/CPC                                | 2,541           | 2,550           | 2,350          | (200)                   |
|                              | - Communications                      | 2,479           | 2,570           | 2,370          | (200)                   |
|                              | - Web/Internet                        | 180             | 600             | 3,638          | 3,038                   |
|                              | - Translation                         | 1,464           | 1,800           | 1,800          | -                       |
|                              | Treatment                             | 2,212           | 2,400           | 2,400          | -                       |
| 4 - Change in Total Expenses | <b>Total Committee Expenses</b>       | <b>174,158</b>  | <b>170,772</b>  | <b>174,385</b> | <b>3,613</b>            |
|                              | <b>Net Self Support Income/(Loss)</b> | <b>(31,158)</b> | <b>(19,972)</b> | <b>(9,990)</b> | <b>9,982</b>            |
| 5 - Literature               | Literature                            | 80,000.00       | 80,000          | 80,000         | -                       |
|                              | Grapevine                             | 6,000.00        | 6,000           | 6,000          | -                       |
|                              | Shipping                              | 8,000.00        | 6,000           | 6,000          | -                       |
|                              | Interest                              | 500.00          | 500             | 500            | -                       |
|                              | <b>Total Other Income</b>             | <b>94,500</b>   | <b>92,500</b>   | <b>92,500</b>  | <b>-</b>                |
|                              | Literature Purchase                   | 69,000.00       | 66,400          | 72,000         | 5,600                   |
|                              | Grapevine Purchase                    | 3,600.00        | 3,600           | 5,700          | 2,100                   |
|                              | Shipping Expense                      | 8,000.00        | 4,800           | 4,800          | -                       |
|                              | <b>Total Other Expense</b>            | <b>80,600</b>   | <b>74,800</b>   | <b>82,500</b>  | <b>7,700</b>            |
|                              | <b>Net Other Income/(Loss)</b>        | <b>13,900</b>   | <b>17,700</b>   | <b>10,000</b>  | <b>(7,700)</b>          |
| 5 - Net Income Loss          | <b>Net Income/(Loss)</b>              | <b>(17,258)</b> | <b>(2,272)</b>  | <b>10</b>      | <b>2,282</b>            |

As you can see, in 2014, we had our final budget, the final budget in 2014 showed a net loss of \$17,200. 2015, we budgeted a new loss of \$2,200. And, in 2016, we are showing a new income of \$10 budgeted.

Can each of the members of the Budget and Finance Committee stand up for just a second to be recognized? Let's give them a round of applause!

The next slide (see below) is identical to the slide before with the exception of the descriptions. The first slide was summarized by Committee, which is how you normally see the financials. This slide is summarized by the category or type of expense. Me, personally as a CPA, I like to see the type of expense. I want to know what the money is spent on. For those that want to see the type or category, this slide's for you. If you want to see it by Committee, the previous slide is for you.

### Georgia State Service Assembly

Budget Comparison by Category  
2014 through 2016

|                                                                                             | Category                         | 2014            | 2015            | 2016           | Net Change 2016 vs 2015 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------------|
|                                                                                             | Contributions                    | 143,000         | 150,800         | 164,395        | 13,595                  |
|                                                                                             | <b>Total Contribution Income</b> | <b>143,000</b>  | <b>150,800</b>  | <b>164,395</b> | <b>13,595</b>           |
| 1 - Describe difference between this slide and the previous is that this one is by Category | Assembly Expense                 | 51,813          | 45,493          | 49,590         | 4,097                   |
|                                                                                             | Cluster Forums                   | 6,144           | 4,000           | 4,400          | 400                     |
|                                                                                             | Conferences/Workshops            | 5,985           | 6,515           | 5,340          | (1,175)                 |
|                                                                                             | DCM Meeting                      | 3,000           | 2,500           | 2,700          | 200                     |
|                                                                                             | Literature & Supplies            | 850             | 1,650           | 1,050          | (600)                   |
|                                                                                             | Misc. Travel & Other             | 2,480           | 3,900           | 2,850          | (1,050)                 |
|                                                                                             | State Convention                 | 811             | 4,900           | 3,500          | (1,400)                 |
|                                                                                             | GSO NY Conference Contribution   | 5,800           | 1,500           | 1,600          | 100                     |
|                                                                                             | General Office Expense           | 57,650          | 59,500          | 55,350         | (4,150)                 |
|                                                                                             | Wages & Taxes                    | 39,625          | 40,814          | 48,005         | 7,191                   |
|                                                                                             | <b>Total Expenses</b>            | <b>174,158</b>  | <b>170,772</b>  | <b>174,385</b> | <b>3,613</b>            |
|                                                                                             | <b>Net Self Support</b>          | <b>(31,158)</b> | <b>(19,972)</b> | <b>(9,990)</b> | <b>9,982</b>            |
|                                                                                             | Literature                       | 80,000.00       | 80,000          | 80,000         | -                       |
|                                                                                             | Grapevine                        | 6,000.00        | 6,000           | 6,000          | -                       |
|                                                                                             | Shipping                         | 8,000.00        | 6,000           | 6,000          | -                       |
|                                                                                             | Interest                         | 500.00          | 500             | 500            | -                       |
|                                                                                             | <b>Total Other Income</b>        | <b>94,500</b>   | <b>92,500</b>   | <b>92,500</b>  | <b>-</b>                |
|                                                                                             | Literature Purchase              | 69,000.00       | 66,400          | 72,000         | 5,600                   |
|                                                                                             | Grapevine Purchase               | 3,600.00        | 3,600           | 5,700          | 2,100                   |
|                                                                                             | Shipping Expense                 | 8,000.00        | 4,800           | 4,800          | -                       |
|                                                                                             | <b>Total Other Expense</b>       | <b>80,600</b>   | <b>74,800</b>   | <b>82,500</b>  | <b>7,700</b>            |
|                                                                                             | <b>Net Other Income</b>          | <b>13,900</b>   | <b>17,700</b>   | <b>10,000</b>  | <b>(7,700)</b>          |
|                                                                                             | <b>Net Income/(Loss)</b>         | <b>(17,258)</b> | <b>(2,272)</b>  | <b>10</b>      | <b>2,282</b>            |

## THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA / PAGE 14

Next, we have the Income Statement (see below). Again, it's just summarized into two sections: The first is Actual Year over Year; the second section is Actual over Budget. I like to see where we stand today vs. this time last year. Because, that's really what our trend is, what we actually spent. And then, we do want to look at where we are today against budget, but remember, we are a "cash-based" organization and there are a lot of timing differences. If we look at where we are today against budget, it's kind of an anomaly until year end.

The first thing I want everyone to look at is the Contributions. We are \$600 ahead of where we were this time last year. For the Expenses, we've spent \$8000 less, we're \$8000 ahead from this time last year. Net income-we are \$1300 more than we were at this point last year. If you look at the budget, we are \$9900 ahead of budget. We \$18,000 ahead on expenses and we are \$23,000 ahead on net income. So currently we have a new income of \$22,000; the budget is a net loss of \$1000. We will probably end the year between \$12,000 to \$15,000 over budgeted. Just like we did last year, we are trending where we were in real expenses.

**Georgia State Service Assembly**

**Income Statement by Committee**  
Previous Year Comparison  
January through August

| Category                         | Actual Year over Year |                |                 | Actual vs Budget 2015 |                 |                |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------|
|                                  | 2015                  | 2014           | Variance        | Jan-Aug 2015          | Budget          | Variance       |
| <b>Contributions</b>             | 110,406               | 111,084        | (678)           | 110,406               | 100,533         | 9,873          |
| <b>Total Contribution Income</b> | <b>110,406</b>        | <b>111,084</b> | <b>(678)</b>    | <b>110,406</b>        | <b>100,533</b>  | <b>9,873</b>   |
| Office Committee                 | 1,046                 | 5,049          | 997             | 6,046                 | 9,085           | (3,040)        |
| Archives                         | 799                   | 920            | (121)           | 799                   | 1,193           | (394)          |
| Records                          | 786                   | 1,067          | (281)           | 786                   | 2,160           | (1,374)        |
| Grapevine                        | 208                   | 281            | (72)            | 208                   | 1,060           | (852)          |
| Miscellaneous Committees         | 2,131                 | 6,324          | (4,192)         | 2,131                 | 3,350           | (1,219)        |
| PI/CPC                           | 624                   | 1,404          | (780)           | 624                   | 1,460           | (836)          |
| - Communications                 | 712                   | 221            | 491             | 712                   | 1,540           | (828)          |
| - Web/Internet                   | 312                   | 390            | (78)            | 312                   | 400             | (88)           |
| - Translation                    | 281                   | -              | 281             | 281                   | 840             | (560)          |
| Treatment                        | 723                   | 1,344          | (621)           | 723                   | 1,360           | (637)          |
| Assembly Services                | 22,758                | 27,803         | (5,045)         | 22,758                | 24,262          | (1,504)        |
| General Office                   | 59,665                | 58,475         | 1,190           | 59,665                | 66,743          | (7,078)        |
| <b>Net Self Support</b>          | <b>15,363</b>         | <b>7,808</b>   | <b>7,555</b>    | <b>15,363</b>         | <b>(12,920)</b> | <b>28,283</b>  |
| Literature                       | 47,466                | 62,546         | (15,080)        | 47,466                | 53,333          | (5,867)        |
| Grapevine                        | 5,550                 | 4,949          | 600             | 5,550                 | 4,000           | 1,550          |
| Shipping                         | 4,575                 | 4,661          | (86)            | 4,575                 | 4,000           | 575            |
| Interest/VC                      | 570                   | 312            | 258             | 570                   | 333             | 237            |
| <b>Total Other Income</b>        | <b>58,161</b>         | <b>72,469</b>  | <b>(14,308)</b> | <b>58,161</b>         | <b>61,667</b>   | <b>(3,506)</b> |
| Literature Purchase              | 43,797                | 51,873         | (8,076)         | 43,797                | 44,267          | (469)          |
| Grapevine Purchase               | 3,986                 | 3,794          | 192             | 3,986                 | 2,400           | 1,586          |
| Shipping Expense                 | 3,589                 | 3,800          | (211)           | 3,589                 | 3,200           | 389            |
| <b>Total Other Expense</b>       | <b>51,372</b>         | <b>59,467</b>  | <b>(8,095)</b>  | <b>51,372</b>         | <b>49,867</b>   | <b>1,506</b>   |
| <b>Net Other Income</b>          | <b>6,788</b>          | <b>13,002</b>  | <b>(6,214)</b>  | <b>6,788</b>          | <b>11,800</b>   | <b>(5,012)</b> |
| <b>Net Income/(Loss)</b>         | <b>22,151</b>         | <b>20,810</b>  | <b>1,342</b>    | <b>22,151</b>         | <b>(1,120)</b>  | <b>23,271</b>  |

**Annotations:**

- 1 Describe sections - Actual year over year & Actual vs Budget
- 2 Variance - Contributions
- 3 Variance - Total Expenses
- 4 Variance - Net Income/(Loss)
- 5 Variance - Actual vs Budget Contributions
- 6 Variance - Total Expenses
- 7 Variance - Net Income/(Loss)

The next slide is the exact same information but it's given to you by expense type rather than by Committee.

**Georgia State Service Assembly**

**Income Statement by Category**  
Previous Year Comparison  
January through August

| Category                         | Actual Year over Year |                |                 | Actual vs Budget 2015 |                 |                 |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|                                  | 2015                  | 2014           | Variance        | Jan-Aug 2015          | Budget          | Variance        |
| <b>Contributions</b>             | 110,406               | 111,084        | (678)           | 110,406               | 100,533         | 9,873           |
| <b>Total Contribution Income</b> | <b>110,406</b>        | <b>111,084</b> | <b>(678)</b>    | <b>110,406</b>        | <b>100,533</b>  | <b>9,873</b>    |
| Assembly Expense                 | 25,423                | 30,550         | (5,127)         | 25,423                | 30,329          | (4,906)         |
| Cluster Forums                   | 1,990                 | 3,145          | (1,155)         | 1,990                 | 3,000           | (1,010)         |
| Conferences/Workshops            | 3,025                 | 2,472          | 553             | 3,025                 | 5,698           | (2,673)         |
| DCM Meeting                      | 823                   | 570            | 253             | 823                   | 1,250           | (427)           |
| Literature & Supplies            | 33,701                | 33,993         | (292)           | 33,701                | 39,733          | (6,032)         |
| Misc. Travel & Other             | 1,600                 | 5,800          | (4,200)         | 1,600                 | 1,500           | 100             |
| State Convention                 | 963                   | 678            | 285             | 963                   | 1,100           | (137)           |
| GSO NY Conference Contribution   | 834                   | 809            | 24              | 834                   | 2,567           | (1,733)         |
| General Office Expense           | 721                   | 776            | (56)            | 721                   | 1,067           | (346)           |
| Wages & Taxes                    | 25,964                | 24,482         | 1,481           | 25,964                | 27,209          | (1,246)         |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>            | <b>95,043</b>         | <b>103,276</b> | <b>(8,233)</b>  | <b>95,043</b>         | <b>113,453</b>  | <b>(18,410)</b> |
| <b>Net Self Support</b>          | <b>15,363</b>         | <b>7,808</b>   | <b>7,555</b>    | <b>15,363</b>         | <b>(12,920)</b> | <b>28,283</b>   |
| Literature                       | 47,466                | 62,546         | (15,080)        | 47,466                | 53,333          | (5,867)         |
| Grapevine                        | 5,550                 | 4,949          | 600             | 5,550                 | 4,000           | 1,550           |
| Shipping                         | 4,575                 | 4,661          | (86)            | 4,575                 | 4,000           | 575             |
| Interest/VC                      | 570                   | 312            | 258             | 570                   | 333             | 237             |
| <b>Total Other Income</b>        | <b>58,161</b>         | <b>72,469</b>  | <b>(14,308)</b> | <b>58,161</b>         | <b>61,667</b>   | <b>(3,506)</b>  |
| Literature Purchase              | 43,797                | 51,873         | (8,076)         | 43,797                | 44,267          | (469)           |
| Grapevine Purchase               | 3,986                 | 3,794          | 192             | 3,986                 | 2,400           | 1,586           |
| Shipping Expense                 | 3,589                 | 3,800          | (211)           | 3,589                 | 3,200           | 389             |
| <b>Total Other Expense</b>       | <b>51,372</b>         | <b>59,467</b>  | <b>(8,095)</b>  | <b>51,372</b>         | <b>49,867</b>   | <b>1,506</b>    |
| <b>Net Other Income</b>          | <b>6,788</b>          | <b>13,002</b>  | <b>(6,214)</b>  | <b>6,788</b>          | <b>11,800</b>   | <b>(5,012)</b>  |
| <b>Net Income/(Loss)</b>         | <b>22,151</b>         | <b>20,810</b>  | <b>1,342</b>    | <b>22,151</b>         | <b>(1,120)</b>  | <b>23,271</b>   |

**Annotation:**

- 1 - Describe difference between this slide and the previous is that this one is by Category

Next we have the Balance Sheet (see below). The information we typically want to look at is what is our Prudent Reserve? Our current Prudent Reserve is \$79,000. We've been able to increase our months in Prudent Reserve up to 8.3 months. But again, we still haven't finished out the year. Hopefully, we will be able to transfer \$12-15,000 into our Prudent Reserve Account by the end of the year.

## THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA / PAGE 15

Georgia State  
Service Assembly

Net Assets  
August 31, 2015

| ASSETS                               |            |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| Current Assets                       |            |
| Checking/Savings                     |            |
| 7575 - GSSA Office Account           | 37,504.44  |
| 1001 - Petty Cash                    | 300.00     |
| 1001A - Grapevine Petty Cash         | 200.00     |
| 1004 - GSSA M.M. 2134 Account        | 40,566.54  |
| 1005 - GSSA M.M. 6260 Account        | 38,950.08  |
| Total Checking/Savings               | 117,521.06 |
| Other Current Assets                 |            |
| 1201 - Accounts Receivable           | 4,530.51   |
| 1499 - Undeposited Funds             | 34.50      |
| Total Other Current Assets           | 4,565.01   |
| Total Current Assets                 | 122,086.67 |
| Other Assets                         |            |
| 1200 - Office Equipment              | 48,420.44  |
| 1205 - Less Accumulated Depreciation | -30,933.68 |
| 1300 - Inventory Literature          | 24,653.42  |
| 1300A - Inventory Grapevine          | 8,772.00   |
| Total Other Assets                   | 50,912.18  |
| TOTAL ASSETS                         | 172,998.85 |
| CASH RESERVES                        |            |
| MONTHS IN RESERVE                    | 8.37       |

Point out current  
and months in  
reserve



The last page is a summary of our Prepaids (See below). The Prepaid financial reports that we had previously received made it difficult for us to compare one Prepaid to another. So we've analyzed so we are able to give you a comparison. You'll see the 59<sup>th</sup> Prepaid in Calloway, the 60<sup>th</sup> in Atlanta, the 61<sup>st</sup> in Jekyll, and year-to-date so far for the 62<sup>nd</sup> in Columbus. The 62<sup>nd</sup> in Columbus is next month so by the end of the year, you'll have four Prepaids for comparison. You can see the categories of expenses, consistent across all of the Prepaids. The ending is the balance-sheet part of the financial, the conventions per reserve. Right now, we are at 2.7 so if contributions completely ceased to date to the Prepaids, we would still have 2.7 Prepaids we could offer.

I hope the Summary information was good for you. The GSRs will no longer receive in printed form the full financial statement. It is a lot of information that might not be easy to understand and may be discarded. In an attempt to save a little money, we have made the detailed information available on the web. The web committee is working on an area on the website to house this information. Should be done in a couple of days.

Go to [aageorgia.org](http://aageorgia.org)- Service-Reports-Financials for a copy of all financial reports.

| Georgia State<br>Service Assembly |  | Pre-Paid Convention<br>Financial Trend<br>2012 – YTD 2015 |                        |                       |                                 |
|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Show Convention                |  | 59th - Calloway<br>2012                                   | 60th - Atlanta<br>2013 | 61st - Jekyll<br>2014 | 62nd - Columbus<br>Jan - Aug 15 |
| INCOME                            |  |                                                           |                        |                       |                                 |
| Group Contributions               |  | 39,478                                                    | 39,176                 | 41,062                | 29,385                          |
| Out of State Registration         |  | -                                                         | -                      | -                     | -                               |
| Interest Income                   |  | 665                                                       | 665                    | 578                   | 414                             |
| TOTAL INCOME                      |  | 40,142                                                    | 39,832                 | 41,628                | 29,799                          |
| EXPENSES                          |  |                                                           |                        |                       |                                 |
| Facilities                        |  | 17,054                                                    | 20,422                 | 14,617                | 2,500                           |
| Speakers and Program              |  | 8,544                                                     | 9,566                  | 9,576                 | -                               |
| Entertainment                     |  | 2,019                                                     | 2,499                  | 3,071                 | -                               |
| Outreach                          |  | 721                                                       | 781                    | 1,290                 | -                               |
| Registration                      |  | 1,013                                                     | 649                    | 865                   | -                               |
| Guest Expenses                    |  | 4,362                                                     | 6,204                  | 4,059                 | -                               |
| Convention Committee Expenses     |  | 1,287                                                     | 8,744                  | 5,706                 | 97                              |
| TOTAL EXPENSES                    |  | 35,000                                                    | 48,864                 | 39,214                | 2,997                           |
| NET RESERVE ADJUSTMENT            |  | 5,142                                                     | (9,033)                | 2,414                 | 27,201                          |
| Reserve Beginning Balance         |  | 118,380                                                   | 123,322                | 106,489               | 111,403                         |
| Net Reserve Adjustment            |  | 5,142                                                     | (9,033)                | 2,414                 | 27,201                          |
| Less Next Year Pre-paid Deposit   |  |                                                           | (8,000)                | 2,500                 | (500)                           |
| Ending Reserve Balance            |  | 123,522                                                   | 106,489                | 111,403               | 138,105                         |
| Average Convention Cost           |  | 41,026                                                    | 41,026                 | 41,026                | 41,026                          |
| Conventions per Reserve           |  | 3.0                                                       | 2.6                    | 2.7                   |                                 |

2 - Show Expense  
categories

3 - Show Reserve  
sections which is the  
Balance Sheet

November is gratitude month- Send in extra contributions to show your gratitude for your sobriety. Birthday contribution envelopes- another way to give. Table boxes at our Assembly up on the dais represent the dollar amount it costs to serve one alcoholic in that Area per year. One is for GSO (New York) one is for GSSA. Give for someone who can't. Thank you for allowing me to be of service.

OLD BUSINESS-

**Recognition of Committee Chairs rotating out at the end of the year:** John B., our Area Archivist; Chuck L., our Communications Chair; Janie C., our Grapevine Chair; LeAnne O., for PI/CPC; our quiet translator, Richard S.; and Patty L., Office Committee Chair.

## **THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA / PAGE 16**

**Patty L- Office Committee Chair:** Eight years is a long time. I've actually served on the Office Committee for ten years, because I was Area Secretary prior to being elected Alt. Delegate. And so, when I was considering whether or not I would stand for Alt Delegate, for me and for a lot of us, it happens because your friends say, "Have you thought about?" And, then you think, well no, not really. I think that's happened to most of us. And that happened to me. And while I was asked, "Have you thought about standing for Alt Delegate", I was also thinking about marrying my now husband, Rusty. I knew what it took, because I had served on the Office Committee two years. It takes a lot of time; and it takes a lot of energy. It just does, which sort of results in sacrifice of family time, of friend time, missing a lot of sponsee's birthdays. So I sat down with Rusty at the time, and said, "You know I'd like to do this but I know it takes a lot of time." So we talked about it and he was very supportive. Since that day, until this day, he's been incredibly supportive. You can't do it without that. You cannot. A dear friend of mine, who has served in this capacity and others, has said, "If you have any cracks in any part of your life, they will split wide open when you do stuff like this." It takes your attention away from the things which are most important in our lives which is our family and friends. I have been very fortunate. We have had some rough times with schedules but my marriage and my family has stayed with me the whole time. I have children and seven grandchildren. I get to spend more time with them so I'm very grateful for that.

I wanted to say a couple of things about my experience and my hope for Area 16. When I was sitting out there as a GSR, as a PI/CPC Rep, as a DCM, it was sort of an "us and them". "Them" were up here and "us" was out there. I've never actually considered myself one of "them". I guess I have been for quite some time. But, I think the people that I have served with over the years and the current Office Committee, work hard at taking that barrier down. I would like to suggest that if you feel that "us and them" barrier, come up and shake the hand of a "them" and tell them. We need to work through that because that's the last thing that we want, is to have that barrier. It can form sometimes without us even knowing it. We can't do anything about it if we don't know about it. If you're feeling that way, just come up and put your hand out.

The other thing I wanted to talk about is our attendance at this Assembly is dropping, and, if you look at ten years ago to this Assembly, it's pretty significant. We have a little higher attendance from May, which is great. But, we used to be six and seven hundred. And then we stayed steady at around five-five fifty for a while, and now we're in the four hundreds. What I would say, in hindsight, is that we need to be careful how we operate this Assembly. If we create chaos here, people won't come. And, you've heard them say it, "It's those politics. I don't want to be a part of that."

We have a great organization in Area 16, to not be organized. Our Service Manual, although it has its flaws, provides us a set of guidelines as to which we can operate. We refine them on a regular basis. But, I think we have to be careful that we don't refine too much, too fast. Because, I think, it sort of destabilizes us and it gets people very anxious. I would just warn against that. I know we have a lot of things going and I'm not speaking to anything in particular, this is just really thinking about the eight years'- experience, the ten years that I had at being a "them". I do know if you experience a bad Assembly or two, and you've met these people, they won't come back. It's up to us to help them understand that what we're doing here is good. Yes, it gets a little tense sometimes and the meetings get long sometimes. But, what we're doing here is good. I would just warn against creating an environment here that doesn't attract people. I think we need to attract people here. I've been thinking about that for quite some time. I'm not sure how to put that into action but just to be aware of it.

We need to trust the process and we have processes. They're in writing. We have principles. Sometimes, before I decide something is wrong, maybe I need to step back and watch it, and let it go, and see how it works. As I got to experience being a Delegate and going to New York, and meeting other Delegates, I'm sure our other Past Delegates have experienced this, the things you think are so wrong about Georgia, all of a sudden seem pretty right. When you hear how other people do things. You come back and watch it with a different eye, and you think, "Oh that's why we do this." So, please, trust the process and watch it before you decide it's wrong.

We are very blessed, we have several Past Delegates in the room, we have a couple more who come when they can and it's amazing how well we support each other. I am very grateful for all of you that are here today and that have supported me.

Above all, what I take away from this is all the relationships that I have gained over the last eight years and I am very grateful for that. Thank you

**Tom H- Chairperson-** Reviewed- "How the Assembly Operates" –Hand-out available at registration desk  
Allow persons who made the original motions at the May Assembly to have 2 minutes to explain the motion:  
We will vote on these at the Assembly in January 2016.

**Motion 1- Move that the Area 16 State Convention be transformed from prepaid to paid.**

Raz S – GSR Tucker Group District 13 D made the original motion at the May 2015 Assembly. His explanation: State Convention has almost 3 years of expenses already accrued and because we have a recommendation in our manual to have the groups support that convention by contributing to it, that is not going to change in any foreseeable future. It could be argued that having that much money as prudent reserve is contrary to spirit of the 7<sup>th</sup> tradition and possibly also crossing



## THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA / PAGE 17

over into the 6<sup>th</sup> tradition as well. But, at least in the opinion of this alcoholic, a motion to redirect those funds is just not in order. It would subvert the will of those individuals who wanted to contribute to the State Convention. Therefore, this motion proposes that by transforming this to a paid convention, we now have a mechanism by which we slowly reduce this excess of funds over a period of time without detracting from the ability for us to put on the convention so that the amount of reserves for this convention can be brought in line with the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition. Thank you

### Ad Hoc Committee Report:

Presented by Kathleen H. DCM 3D, Ad Hoc Committee Chair

Rebecca formed this ad hoc group to address the motion made to "transform the prepaid convention to a paid convention". I'd like to introduce the members of the Ad hoc committee:

Committee Members: Chris M., DCM District 1A; Denny B., Alt DCM 12A; Gigi J., DCM 16A; and Joel D., DCM 10D

This was the process we took:

Archives at GSSA and GSO found early letters about the startup of the prepaid in Area 16 in the mid 1950's. Clearly their rationale was to ask groups **who were able** to contribute to a fund which would provide a state convention for those alcoholics who might not be able to normally afford a registration fee.

The ad hoc committee also contacted AAs in other areas of the country including Florida, Alabama, Texas, California, and North Carolina to get information about the financial arrangements for their conventions. If these areas had state conventions (and several did not or had discontinued them altogether), they did not provide free registration unless it was through occasional scholarships. Generally, other area conventions were not necessarily held annually, had a smaller scope and fewer activities and at times had a complicated registration payment system.

If we were to switch, we considered possibly using historical data of final cost and total attendance from past conventions to come up with some kind of predictor of cost per person. However it was suggested that historical data might be irrelevant due to economic changes which have affected venue expenses and coffee prices. Georgia's Pre-Paid Convention has been one of the few things that has continued to operate in the "black" financially with few exceptions. So, it, unlike our GSSA budget, has not run into deficit.

As we concluded our discussions, the committee took into account the long history of our prepaid and the fact that Area 16 has the only prepaid convention funded by home groups and that operates in or under budget. Being mindful of the work done over the last two years by an ad hoc committee to make changes to the Service Manual regarding the prepaid we would like to give those changes time to take effect. Therefore at this time this ad hoc committee makes the recommendation: that we do **not** transform the prepaid convention to a paid and we do not take any further action.

### Comments from the Assembly floor:

David S- Past-Delegate- Thank you to the Ad Hoc committee for their report. I favor continuing what we currently have. My comment is concerning what Raz brought about, which I thought, he brought up a very good point to the fact that an accumulation of excess money is not good for us. I agree with him that almost three years of reserves in our Prepaid is an excess. I would point out, however, that on one previous occasion, we have transferred funds from our Prepaid fund to our general fund. We are currently operating in a deficit budget for our general fund. This might be another time to consider that. To further address the fact that this might be putting funds in a place where the groups didn't intend for them to go, I would point out that the groups that send that money in have their representatives sitting here and they operate at this Assembly. So, if we were to consider that, moving that money over, the groups who are sending that money in are the groups that are sitting here today and would be making that decision and I think that would be appropriate in the lines of our Traditions.

Ken B- Northwest Group-District 13 B- Came to Georgia from another state and thought that the Prepaid idea is wonderful. It was pretty impressive to me that people in the state give money so that anyone who wants to attend the convention can. I think that if there is an interest in moving some money around, we could talk about having the GSRs go back to their groups and explain that we have 2.7 years of reserve funds for the Prepaid and there's some talk about where to put it to see if there's an interest in moving it. That would be acceptable.

Larry- GSR -Fresh Start Group- Douglasville, GA- The Service Manual projects what is recommended what we give. If each group, decides to do other things to support funding in other areas, why can't we just keep it at that level? Why does it have to confuse everything by taking it to a vote? If you don't want to give to the Prepaid, don't give to the Prepaid. Give more money to the state. I don't know if it needs to come to big debate. The groups could change recommended percentages of group contributions. The Prepaid is a good thing, we don't need to confuse it.

Gary P- Alt DCM District 5A -excess funds for Prepaid- Sitting in the convention meeting yesterday and considering we already have two Prepays in the books, already have commitments for the next 2 years. They have to put down deposits so they are already using these funds.

Amy S- GSR- Greenhouse Group- Norcross-As the Ad Hoc committee stated, the initial reason for the Prepaid was to offer something to the alcoholic who normally could not afford to go a convention. Very important for everybody to have the opportunity for that experience.

Ken-DCM – District 5B- What is the recommended prudent reserve for the Prepaid?

Tom H- A couple of years ago the Office Committee developed a charge for the Budget Committee to look at several things and one of the items was prudent reserve. Although this has not come to a vote in front of the DCMS the thinking at this time, according to our Area Treasurer, Diane M, Budget Committee is considering 1.25 years as

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a recommendation.

Jim O- DCM 14 B- Secy-Treasurer Noon Group-Cartersville-I just made the annual contributions from my home group and I just followed the percentages that were in our Area 16 newsletter. I sent 10% to the Prepaid Convention. It would be simple to just change the recommended percentages.

Thank you all for your comments. One of the charges to the Budget and Finance Committee, in addition to establishing amounts for prudent reserves, was also to have a method when we are in excess of those prudent reserve funds. The groups have sent in their money specifically identified for the Prepaid. We, as an Office Committee, we hope as an Area, and I'm including the DCMs in that, don't feel it's appropriate to take some of that money that was earmarked for the Prepaid funds.

### **Motion 2: To allow DCMs the right to vote and introduce motions at assembly**

Nathan W- GSR- Candlelight Group District 13A made the original motion at the May 2015 Assembly. His explanation: Motion strictly related to policy-voting is strictly related to policy. So, I'll make an amendment to change that next Assembly. I want to give a little background. It is a little odd that we are the only Area that does allow our District Committee Members (DCMs) as well as our Office Committee Members (but that's for another day) the right to vote at Area Assembly. Every other Area and at Conference DCMs or their equivalents have the right to vote at Assembly. Read statement from Bill W – *Throughout our Conference structure, we ought to maintain at all responsible levels, a traditional right of participation, taking care that each classification or group of our world servants should be allowed a voting representation of reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.* (Concept IV, Long Form) And, at Assembly, the DCMs are those that are most informed of any group of people here and have the most insight into motions, into the goings-on at Assembly and Bill continues to write: *The preservation of the principle of participation in our service structure is to those of us who already understand its application and benefits a matter of the highest importance to our future.* (Concept IV, p 16-A.A. Service Manual) I've heard a lot of "one group-one vote. The DCMs already have a right to vote through their group, they can already send their vote up through their GSR and why do they need another vote at Assembly?" The reality the "one group-one vote" analogy is just not seen anywhere else in Alcoholics Anonymous outside of the state of Georgia. It's something that's a bit of an aberration; it's not common. At Conference, not only do delegates get a right to vote, but also staff workers at GSO as well as trustees. Trustees would be the equivalent here of DCMs.

### **Ad-Hoc Committee Report:**

Presented by Joe W., Ad Hoc Committee Chair

Committee Members: Joe W., DCM 16D; Frank M., DCM 5A; Shawna P., Alt DCM 16C; Sharon L., DCM 14D; Warren B., Alt DCM District 8

### **Motion:**

*To allow DCM's the right to vote and introduce motions at assembly.*

Georgia AA Service Manual (page 13)

### **VOTING PRIVILEGES**

One Group – One Vote

Only GSRs, or their duly elected and registered alternates, are eligible to place a motion on the floor or to vote at Assembly meetings

### **AA Service Manual (page S37)**

#### **Eligibility to Vote**

Generally speaking all area committee members and officers and all GSR's have one vote each in an assembly. Experience indicates that even though committee members and area officers are members of a group in the area that is represented by a GSR, they are entitled to vote at assembly.

#### **Research:**

Nathan W. who made the motion, cited Concept IV, which states:

"Throughout our Conference structure, we ought to maintain at all responsible levels a traditional "Right of Participation", taking care that each classification or group of our world servants should be allowed a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge."

Rebecca T. assisted the Ad Hoc Committee by asking delegates from around the nation how their assemblies voted. All who responded said that DCMs were allowed to vote in their assemblies.

They said that there were no conflicts of interest, most stated DCMs voted because they were similar to being conference members, and one stated, the rationale for our area is that many GSRs do not attend area assemblies so that DCMs may be the voice for them if they were at District and voted there in the majority.

That led us to do a little research of our own assembly attendance. With Tamera's help we ran the numbers from January, May, September of 2014, along with January and May of this year.

There are 51 DCMs in Georgia and 760 groups, assuming each group is represented by a GSR the average attendance in those five assemblies breaks down as follows;

DCM average attendance 84%

GSR average attendance 26%

As a committee we polled GSRs in our district as well as DCMs, Delegates, and anyone who would talk to us around the state. Almost to a person the general conscience was to leave Georgia the way it is. One of our distinguished participants alluded to Concept IX.

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Concept IX (page 34 paragraph 4 AA Service Manual)

Bill W. writes,

"It ought to be remembered *that it is only the G.S.R's who*, in Group Assembly meetings (or in caucus) can name Committee Members and finally name the Delegates."

Ad-Hoc Committee recommendation:

Our recommendation is to maintain our current voting status.

Comments from the Assembly floor:

Frank S- GSR White Bluff Group- I have also twice had the privilege of serving my zone as DCM. The foundation of our decision-making process is the informed group conscience. We have learned that the good can be the enemy of the best. In Concept V, we are warned about an informed, misinformed, hasty or angry decision. We are guided by Tradition 1, personal recovery depends on AA unity. We are guided by Tradition 12-principles before personalities. Our goal is seeking knowledge of God's will for us and we do this by applying Tradition 2- the ultimate authority is a loving God that expresses himself in our group conscience. Andin Warranty 4- that we seek substantial unanimity. All of these are a part of an informed group conscience. If motions are made by GSRs, in theory, they have gone through this group conscience process and these principles have been applied. If motions are made by DCMs as individuals, these principles may have been bypassed. On the idea of DCMs having a vote, if the vote of the DCMs confirms the vote of the GSRs, then, nothing has changed. On the other hand, if I, as a DCM, vote to overturn the expressed group conscience of the fellowship as expressed by our GSRs, I have a hard time saying what gives me the spiritual basis for overriding the voice of the GSRs.

Tom R - Alt DCM- 16 D - It could be argued that as I DCM or Alt DCM, I actually I have the ability in a better sense to make a motion than the GSRs do. Because, if my group won't do it, or if it comes up here, and my group is not here to make that decision, I have another GSR to turn to and ask to make that motion. Don't see why any DCM would have the need to make a motion. I think it's been expressed very well on why we don't need to vote.

Padre- GSR-There is a Solution- 16D – I listened to the motion as was read and I listened to what Patty said about the ultimate propagation of the "us and them". Once you tell me DCMs are more informed than GSRs, I'm gonna ask, "Why"? The way it works, is working. I would propose that it be voted down,

Nathan W- Clarification-vote to proxy to their GSRs-highly inappropriate. It can be considered an abuse of power. The motion reflects the DCMs be allowed to vote on policy rather than in elections. AA Service Manual states that GSRs, district committee members, and trustees can vote at Conference. Read p. S37 from AA Service Manual- *...even though district committee members and area officers are members of a group, in the area that is represented by a GSR, they are entitled to a vote at assembly.* Why should we think Georgia should do something differently?

John R- Alt DCM District 9- I just wanted to bring up a scenario that occurred earlier this year. I our discussion on making the changes to service manual on Prepaid Convention. There were motions made when I was a GSR. I wanted to make an amendment to readdress a motion I had made as a GSR but could not make any change since I had been elected as Alt DCM. It was allowed as a friendly discussion. Where does that fall in to Robert's Rules? I was not allowed to make a change on a motion I had made as a GSR but couldn't change it because I was a DCM. That's why it needs changing.

Tom H. read from Robert's Rules as written in our Georgia Service Manual. Only GSRs can make motions and amendments.

Sandra B- Alt DCM 13 J- 700+ groups-they are not all here. There are many GSRs who are not here today. Some are not interested some can't afford to attend GSSA but do attend the District Meetings. My role as an Alt DCM is to know the pulse of the GSRs in my zone. My vote as DCM would be to represent those folks who cannot attend Assembly.

Tom H. More discussion can be done in January. All who want to share, come to the mike now.

John A -Richmond Hill- Alt Treasurer 5B- Looking at the Georgia Service Manual p15. DCMS have the right to vote-already have the right to vote-referred to service manual in regard to a tie vote.

Katie M- Past Area Secretary, Past DCM, Past GSR- More talking to the idea at the idea of introducing motions. I must admit I was better informed as a DCM. Sometimes it makes sense to introduce a motion at Assembly. And to have the proper frame of reference and experience to do that can be best done a lot of times by a DCM. I have a hard time believing that the DCMs would vote against the conscience of their own groups and districts.

Ardith B- DCM District 8- My job is to disseminate information and keep groups informed. I would hate to see at a district meeting, the GSRs asking me how I was going to vote because I would not want to sway them. I am the disseminator not the decider on how things are going to go. I agree with keeping it the same.

Tom H- Assembly Chair- Take this information back to your Districts and Groups for them to make a decision. Vote in January

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Vote on using the 2016 General Service Conference Theme and workshop titles for the 2016 Cluster Forums:**

*Our Spiritual Way of Life: Steps, Traditions, and Concepts*

*Topics: Connecting with the Newcomer*

*Connecting with each other*

*Connecting with AA as a whole*

*Workshop Topic for 2016 GSC: Anonymity: The Spiritual Foundation*

Show of hands-all in favor; no one opposed

**Elections for Delegate and Alternate Delegate-**

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Tom H, Assembly Chair reviewed the Third Legacy Procedure (pp 30-31 Georgia Service Manual)

Debi K-Area 16 Secretary Conducted a Roll Call: 265 Eligible to vote. Numbers are likely to change slightly, if someone steps out.

Nominees: Deborah C , Ernie M , Hank R, Rick M

### Delegate

#### Ballot 1

Deborah C -35

Ernie M-179

Hank R -11

Rick M-38

2/3 = 176

### Alternate Delegate

#### Ballot 1

Deborah C-106

Hank R-24

Rick M-128

2/3= 172\*

#### Ballot 2

Deborah C -95

Hank R -9 \*\*

Rick M-151

2/3=170\*

#### Ballot 3

Deborah C- 80

Rick M- 170

2/3=166

Ernie- 176 votes

### Delegate

needed- Ernie with 179 No further ballots needed Congratulations to Ernie M-Panel 56 Area 16 Delegate

Alternate Delegate \* No candidate received 2/3rds \*\* Withdrawal-Less than 1/5<sup>th</sup> Rick is elected as out new Alt Delegate. Congratulations Rick M. Thank you to Deborah C and Hank R for their service.

### General Sharing

Tamara- Office Manager- Praise and thanks to all of you. Lots of help from volunteers around the state. I wanted to give a big hand to all the volunteers who actually do the work at GSSA. No other comments from the Assembly floor.

### Motion to close

Larry G –GSR Midtown Group, Savannah- Motion to close. 2<sup>nd</sup> Motion-Name not stated Arturo – Led the Assembly in the Lord's Prayer in Spanish . Closed with Lord's Prayer in English

## 2015 Del Estado de Georgia - Cluster Foro

**Alcoholicos Anonimos  
Sobriedad Latina Grupo**

**Sabado 7 de Noviembre del 2015**

**3609 Shallowford Road, #400, Doraville, GA 30340**

**DE INVITARLOS A LA CELEBRACION DE NUESTRO, CLUSTER FORO. EL DIA SABADO 7 DE NOVIEMBRE DEL 2015**

**REGISTRACIONES DE 7AM-9AM  
REUNION D 9AM-1PM**

**TEMAS DE LA CONFERENCIA DE CERVICIOS GENERALES, CELEBRANDO 80 ANOS DE RECUPERACION, UIDAD Y SERVICIO.**

**LA BASE PARA NEUESTRO FUTURO.**

**LOS TEMAS DE LAS PRESENTACIONES/DISCUCION**

- 1. NUESTRO VIENESTAR COMUN POR MEDIO DE LA GRATITUDE EN ACCION.**
- 2. (a) LA DIVERCIDAD aa NUESTRA HERENCIA DE INCLUCION**
- 3. (b) LA SEGURIDAD Y RESPETO-LA PRACTICA DE NUESTROS PRINCIPOS, EMPIEZAN EN NUESTRO GRUPO BACE.**
- 4. (c) LA PRESERVACION DE NUESTRAS TRADICIONES POR MEDIO DE LA EVOLUCION DE LA TECNOLOGIA**
- 5. (d) EL INVENTARIO: MIRAR ATRAS PARA IR ADELANTE.**

**INFORMES DE LOS COMITES DEL AREA**

**INFORME FINAL, mCD**

**PALABRAS DE AGRADECIMIENTOS ALA DELEGADA SALIENTE Y LOS COMITES**

**REFRIGERIO AL TERMINAR LA REUNION**

**GRACIAS POR SU ATENCION, CON AMOR Y SERVICIO.**

**NICOLAS MCD**