

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

Confidential for members  
March / April 2016  
Volume 50, Numbers 3-4

## Communications: Through the Structure

By Ernie M.  
Area 16 Delegate

In looking at the Assembly in January, I could not help but notice the lack of participants. Only forty four percent (44%) of our groups (756 total) were represented at the Assembly by their GSRs or Alternates. We did have over 500 attend, but we have done better. I hope you will share your positive experience with other AAers and encourage them to join us for the May Assembly. I have appointed 2 ad-hoc committees to bring back their reports on motions presented in January. In May, the area will be accepting nominations for Area Secretary and Treasurer. They will be elected in September and begin their duties in 2017. The Area's Communications Committee has received a good number of **Assembly** evaluations noting your suggestions for improvements and forwarded them to the Office Committee.

The theme for the 2016 General Service Conference is: "Our Spiritual Way of Life: Steps, Traditions and Concepts." The presentation/discussion topics are: Connecting with the Newcomer; Each Other; and AA as a Whole. We will use these topics during our Cluster Forums this year. Cluster Forums are not just for GSRs and DCMs. They are for anyone in the fellowship looking for their "niche" in Service Work. I challenge you all to bring a newcomer to your regional Cluster Forum.

The General Service Board held its meeting in January. I will be receiving the Agenda Items for the General Conference as this message is going to press. As I receive the conference items, I will have our Area Secretary forward them to their respective Area Committees and the DCMs assigned to those committees. I encourage all DCMs to communicate and distribute these agenda items to your GSRs so you will have an informed District/Zone conscience/

opinion to bring to the Pre-Conference Meeting in Macon on April 2nd. The 66th General Conference will be held April 16th-23rd. I have been chosen to participate on the Trustees' CPC Committee (Cooperation with the Professional Community) and look forward to carrying you opinions to the Conference. Although the CPC Committee is my primary focus, I will be allowed to express the Area's Conscience on the other Agenda Items. I will bring back a full report our May Assembly.

"Keeping a balance between ultimate authority, responsibility and the active day-to-day functioning of World Services means there must be constant communication among all elements of the structure." S17, The AA Service Manual. Communication begins with the Group - to the District - to the Area Delegate - to the Conference and back down.

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of AA as a whole." Before he goes we'll be called upon to discuss topics and provide viewpoints to him from our Group level. Please bring these viewpoints to your District & Zone meetings so your DCM will have these for the DCM Pre-Conference Meeting on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. The discussion topics will have been distributed to the DCMs in February.

Don't forget to sign up for the 63<sup>rd</sup> Pre-paid Convention in Augusta Oct. 20-23, being held at the Marriott Convention Center. The committee has a great agenda and they're "fired-up" to have us there. Mark it on your calendar and register early. Registration forms are available on our web site and this newsletter.

I look forward to meeting many of you at our GSSA activities, May Assembly, and working together at every level in our "Spiritual Way of Life: Steps, Traditions, & Concepts".

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

## An Informed Group Conscience

By Rick M.  
Area 16 Alternate Delegate

Our most recent Assembly was very enjoyable & enlightening. I hope it was for you too. It was great to meet a lot of new folks in the service of their Groups, Districts & Zones and Area Committees. We witnessed one of our Theme topics for this year, "An Informed Group Conscience: The Key to Unity", in action during our last Assembly. The discussions, presented information and voting of motions were exactly what I believe this theme topic is all about. As a group, the state of Georgia through its GSRs, voted it's conscience on a couple Area topics brought before them. The result of each vote was the expression of God's will. I recently read an article from our literature that described it this way: "A group conscience of informed AA members, acting in good faith in what they believe to be in the best interest of AA and in accordance with our Traditions, thus never reaches a "wrong" result. It is by definition what is

right at the time the vote is taken".

By the time you read this issue, the Southeast Delegate Get Together will have taken place in Atlanta, February 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>. The next activity on the GSSA schedule is the Southwest Cluster Forum in Albany March 26<sup>th</sup>. I really hope to see all of you at these forums to hear and experience the great presentations on this year's themes like the two I mention in this article. I'm sure Zones 1A, 1B, 2A, & 2B will do a fantastic job. Please come out and join us for a very informative Cluster **Forum**.

I'm looking forward to our action on another theme topic, "Be Involved, Be Inspired, Be of Service". Ernie, our Delegate, will travel to New York for the General Service Conference. From our Service Manual, "As a voting member of the Conference, delegates bring to its deliberations the experiences and viewpoints of their own areas. Yet they are not representatives of their areas in the usual political sense; after hearing all points of view and becoming fully informed during Conference discussion, they vote in the best interest

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

## New Year/Old Theme: Gratitude

By Diane M.  
Area 16 Treasurer

For this Message we decided on a theme: Three takeaways from the January Assembly. When thinking about the most impactful takeaway's for me, I realized that I was affected most by one of my favorite spiritual principles: Gratitude. Throughout the Assembly I heard the voice of gratitude. We all know that voice; it is the sound of joy-filled emotions welling up to the point of becoming tearful.

It started for me when Bob R. spoke about whether we are doing enough for the newcomer. As he shared about our responsibility to the newcomer, the message I heard was gratitude for the program and for those that welcomed us into the doors. Am I reaching out to the

newcomer the way others reached out to me when I showed up? Later Jodi W., Pre Paid Convention Chair, gave her summary report and spoke about the unity of the committee and the convention volunteers, and the rewards we receive when we are being of service. Then Ron G., our Communications Chair, spoke about the upcoming release of the We Share II book and the privilege of reading about AA's rich history in Georgia.

Each person had that voice of gratitude and after each one shared I too felt that emotion welling up in me to the point of becoming tearful. Gratitude for those who paved the way before me, gratitude for those who welcomed me, and gratitude for the opportunity to be of service to others.

help when needed. Whether it involves unloading boxes of literature or setting up computers and screens for the business meeting, members are willing to lend a hand. This enables us to get a job done and members to "feel a part of".

Our speaker on Saturday night shared a powerful message. Although he was from a different culture and a different generation, the members of his group welcomed him, took him by the hand and led him on a journey to live a sober life. He was not judged or shunned. He was accepted. Now, many years later, he is able to share his story to help others.

I am grateful to be a part of this beautiful fellowship!

Please submit your district/zone minutes to [district-minutes@aageorgia.org](mailto:district-minutes@aageorgia.org). Any updates to your groups (meeting times/locations, trusted servants, etc. can be submitted online at [aageorgia.org](http://aageorgia.org).

## FROM YOUR EDITOR

This issue of The Message is attempting to incorporate a "theme" throughout our articles. That theme is "what are your 3 take-a-ways from the January Assembly". For me, this was my first Assembly as a DCM and I experiences a lot of new things.

1. One of my GSRs presented a motion. I had the opportunity to help him write it and work with the Area officers to have the motion included in the Assembly. Getting to do anything first hand in AA always makes learning a richer experience.
2. I was disappointed in the number of GSRs that did not attend. Not only in my district but in the others as well. It inspires me to learn more about the reasons. Is it their group's decision based on finances or lack of interest? Is it because the GSR and/or Alt GSR has other commitments? Is it a lack of interest, unaware or forgot the Assembly was that weekend? It is something I will look into and share with our readers.
3. People appreciate other people introducing themselves and telling you about where they are from and what they do in AA service. The benefits are wonderful. You make new **friends** and contacts. For this alcoholic, anytime I'm listening to someone tell me about themselves, I'm not thinking about me.

— Jenine M., Area 16 Editor

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

## AA in Action

By Deborah K.  
Area 16 Secretary

I arrived home from our January Assembly, as I do after each Assembly, full of the spirit of AA. Three messages stood out to me: our democratic process works; the fellowship of AA is alive and well; and AA is all-inclusive.

The democratic process of Alcoholics Anonymous allows everyone to have a voice. Whenever we have motions on the floor, we can anticipate a lengthy business meeting. Any member is welcome to come to the microphone and share comments regarding the motion. No voice is too small to be heard; no comment is less valid than another. Although we all may not always agree with the thoughts of another, we listen and allow their voice to be heard. To me, it is a beautiful thing.

The fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous is like nothing I have experienced outside of AA, personally or professionally. We all "chip in" to

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

### Grapevine News

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

The latest issue of Grapevine News has just been released. There is a change in the Subscription Challenge results as reported at the January Assembly. Missouri won the challenge for Grapevine and Delaware won the challenge for La Vina. Georgia finished 39th for Grapevine and 6th for La Vina. The winners were based on percentage growth. The greatest number of new subscriptions for both magazines came from California.

Start 2016 with the Grapevine **Daily Quote**. Sign up to receive the GV Daily Quote via email, forward it to a friend and buy the print version. All GV and LV literature is available from our GSSA office.

For those folks that have rotated into new GV and LV positions, please register online with Grapevine and with Tamera at the GSSA office.

This month's special section

is "Staying Sober Through Adversity." Read articles by members on how they got through tough times in sobriety. Go to [www.aagrapevine.org/contribute](http://www.aagrapevine.org/contribute) to see the 2016 issue themes and writers' guidelines.

The current issue of La Vina's special section features stories with the theme "No Matter What, We Don't Drink." Visit [www.aagrapevine.org/Calendario-de-Eventos](http://www.aagrapevine.org/Calendario-de-Eventos) to see upcoming events in the new online calendar. All subscribers to LV email newsletters will receive a one-time invitation via email to sign up to receive LV's new Spanish-language text-based communications (not available in English or for Grapevine).

Grapevine is always looking for stories, photographs, and illustrations. Please visit [www.aagrapevine.org/share](http://www.aagrapevine.org/share) to learn more about how you can participate with Grapevine.

It was great to see everyone at the Assembly and we look forward to seeing you soon, thank you for the opportunity to serve Area 16. Please let us know if we can be of any assistance to you.

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

### Rolling in Service

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

As another year moves into full swing, I am reminded what a true blessing it is to be involved in service in AA. Treatment had two great workshops at the January Assembly. We appreciated all those who attended sharing their experience, strength, and hope, asking questions, and finding out more information about the Committee.

Don and I had a great time attending a workshop recently hosted by District 13J. The question and answer sessions after our talks were awesome. It is always inspiring to be with others who love this program. Thanks to Thomas for setting up the Treatment workshop for the District and allowing us to be a part of it.

Another exiting annual event is our annual Treatment/Special Needs/Accessibilities **Workshop**. This year's event will be hosted by District 14A. We are looking forward to heading to Rome this year for the workshop. As soon as the location, date, and time is confirmed we will have flyers available and will have the information available in the May/June issue of the *Message*. We hope to see you all there this year.

I can't believe this is the last year for me serving on this Committee. It's amazing how fast three years has flown by! In that regard, we will be seeking someone interested in serving as the Treatment Co-Chair starting in January 2017. Please let Don or me know if you are interested in service on the Area level for Treatment/Special Needs/Accessibilities.

As always, we encourage everyone to make sure their meeting schedules accurately reflect whether their groups are handicap accessible, as well as being familiar with the literature available in the "Special Needs" section of the literature catalogue.

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

### Service & Sacrifice

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

Do you have time? Will you make time? Service rarely comes at opportune times. More often than not, it's challenging to find the time, whatever your capacity. When I was new in the program, it was explained to me clearly "Finding balance will keep your program well rounded." I was unaware that this seemingly simple task would take constant effort, reminiscent of my tenth step.

The challenge of balance develops when life begins changing and happening all around us. Promises come true, order is restored, and now it's time to give back. As alluded to in the title, I now must **learn** to sacrifice. Sacrifice my time, my energy, and sometimes a little of my sanity. There is plenty of work to be

done. I've found a channel to apply myself and now I just dive in. Caution must be considered to find your balance at this point. Quickly, we can shortchange other areas of our life if we don't keep our priorities in mind.

One way I have learned to do that is by making a schedule and keeping to it. For instance, if I were in charge of chips for my home group, I could inventory and order chips on the same day every week, at the same time. That way, I could mark calendars and even schedule alarms to remind me. Thus, never failing my home group with that service. This works at the general service positions as well. Efficient scheduling of responsibilities and locations keeps me capable of handling the other areas of my life with impunity.

I'm very grateful for the opportunity to sacrifice for this program, and I'm even more grateful for the gift of balance.

**Don't forget to Register for the Pre-Paid Convention on page 14**



## ARCHIVES / archives@aageorgia.org

### Reel-To-Reel Challenge

By Gary N., Chair  
Fred I., Co-Chair  
Area 16 Archives Committee

There are no less than a thousand reel-to-reel tapes housed within our Georgia Archives. Each may have as many as four **speakers**, with two talks on each side. There may be more than three thousand speakers within our collection. Complicating matters further is that the recordings on the same tape may not be all the same speed.

We have been attempting to make an accurate inventory of the reel-to-reels. While each of the tapes previously has had a unique reel number associated with it, our only existing catalogue of them was written using some other numbering system. We have been using volunteers to examine each reel-to-reel tape all of which having writing on the back. We then search through the old catalogue matching by names, and then record the new tape number on the old catalogue. Tamera has been directing the volunteers in this time consuming exercise.

If the original catalogue could be found, assuming one ever existed, a lot of work would not be necessary. If any past archivist can shed light on this, please do.

Upon completion of the new catalogue, we will then begin to prioritize the tapes for purposes of digitizing them using the already available techniques. A limited number of recordings have already been converted. Our co-chair Fred I. (not Ed I. for which I apologize for last month) received training from Damon E. on how the conversion technique works.

As we grow our collection of converted recordings, the question will become what do we do with them? Do we think the current GSSA web page is the appropriate place for these recordings to be heard? Might we allow downloads? Might we come up with an arrangement where an already existing audio website distributes these recordings for us? We solicit your guidance and opinions in this matter.

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

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

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

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

### Group Conscience Decision

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

### Sample Distribution      A      B

State Office, Macon:	50%	30%
Central Office:	-	35%
District/Zone:	10%	5%
Pre-Paid Convention:	10%	10%
GSO:	30%	20%

Mailing Addresses:

#### GSSA (State Office)

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*

tion service to provide timely information on the new web site content for The Georgia Message of AA, Ad Hoc Committee Reports, flyers, etc.

## COMMUNICATIONS / communications@aageorgia.org

### Informed Conscience

By Ron G., Chair  
Gary J., Co-Chair  
Area 16 Communications Committee

What a great start to 2016 at our January Assembly. The turn-out of AAs new to Service was wonderful. I always get a charge at the beginning to a new year of service. As this article is published, the first Cluster Forum is just around the corner on March 26<sup>th</sup> in Albany and the Pre-conference Meeting to help our Delegate prepare for the April General Service Conference will occur on April 2<sup>nd</sup> in Macon. Each of you can help with the preparation through your DCM. Each DCM has an assignment to review and provide **feedback** to our Delegate on one of the many agenda items of the Conference. Please take part in your district and group business meetings to help our Delegate

form an informed conscience for his work at our General Service Conference in April.

Our editor asked each Committee Chair to provide three 'take-aways' from the January Assembly. My three are:

- (1) modify the Spanish translator staffing of the Saturday Committee meetings from Corrections and Inter-group Committees to those Committees booked by Spanish attendees through the translator table to increase the exposure of District 17 GSRs and District Officers to other Service opportunities
- (2) Use the Saturday 9:30 PM Communications Committee to tackle District and Group Communications issues.
- (3) Rework the Area 16 subscrip-

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

**Why I go Into Prisons**

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

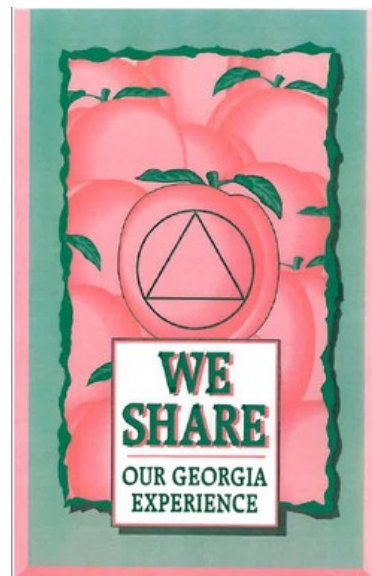
"Most of us feel we need look no further for Utopia. We have it with us right here and now. Each day my friend's simple talk in our kitchen multiplies itself in a widening circle of peace on earth and good will to men." *Alcoholics Anonymous*, Page 16.

I used to say I took meetings into the prisons to help me stay **sober**. True enough. However, the reason I take meetings into prisons became crystal clear to me the other night. It was definitely a rainy night in Georgia. There was flash flooding and some streets were closed. A friend of mine had called and asked if I could cover a prison two hours away. My mind was thinking, "No" but out of my mouth came "Yes."

After driving through the rain for two hours, I checked in at the prison and finally got back to the meeting room. The men slowly came in. One of the fellows was a little late and he said he had forgotten his ID and the guards were not going to let him come in. He had run for nearly a mile, through the

rain, as hard as he could to get that ID before the doors were locked. He made it, sweaty, wet, but excited and said, "After the week I have had I really needed a meeting." In that moment in time I realized why I take meetings into the prisons.

If you would like to get involved in Corrections Service Work, please contact us by e-mail at [corrections@aageorgia.org](mailto:corrections@aageorgia.org). Our next training to become certified as a volunteer to carry meetings into Georgia Prisons will be May 28, 2016 at the Georgia State Service Assembly Office in Macon. We normally start at around 8:00 a.m.



**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 SERVICE ASSEMBLY, TO  
GET THE GROUP RATE.**

**THE CUT OFF DATE IS April 20, 2016.**

**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>March 11-13</b>	<b>Flint River Round Up</b> Albany
<b>March 11-13</b>	<b>G.A.L.S.</b> Toccoa
<b>March 26</b>	<b>Southwest Cluster Forum</b> Albany (1A,1B,2A,2B)
<b>April 2</b>	<b>DCM Pre-Conference Meeting</b> Macon/Marriott 11:00am-3:00pm
<b>April 17-23</b>	<b>66<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference</b> New York
<b>May 20-22</b>	<b>Georgia AA Service Assembly</b> Macon/Marriott

The deadline for the articles for the message for May and June is April 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

## Birthday Contributions

### District 3, Zone D

Happy Hour Group  
Deborah C. – September 16, 1996  
Step by Step Group  
Pat M. – November 28, 1990  
12 & 12 Group  
Kathleen H. – January 14, 2001

### District 5, Zone A

Garden City Group  
Jane G. – October 23, 2007  
New Horizons Group  
Ernie M. – January 19, 1989  
Saving Grace Group  
Frank McD. – December 15, 2001

### District 5, Zone B

White Bluff Group  
Frank S. – October 28, 1990

### District 7, Zone A

New Beginnings Group  
Gladys H. – December 24, 1990

### District 7, Zone B

Sisters In Sobriety Group  
Betty H. – September 29, 2005

### District 8

Baldwin County Group  
John L. – September 14, 1998

### District 10, Zone D

David J. – November 19, 2000  
Turin Lost & Found Group  
Debi K. – July 11, 2003

### District 11, Zone B

Covington Group  
Dan W. – December 25, 2013

### District 13, Zone A

Clean Air Group  
Bill M. – December 15, 1993  
Sober Sisters Group  
Betty L. – January 3, 2000

### District 16, Zone C

First Things First Group  
Shannon G. – August 12, 1990

### District 17

Latinos 2000 Group  
Gabriela G. – March 10, 1990  
Primero de Noviembre Group  
Andze V. – December 12, 2015  
Sobriedad Latina Group  
Ancelmo V. – April 9, 2015  
Oseas O. – July 2015  
Selmlos C. – October 24, 2014

## New Groups

### District 13 Zone J

There Is A Solution Group  
515 Roswell St.  
Marietta, GA 30060  
Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

### District 16 Zone E

The Good Shepherd Group  
Church of the Good Shephard  
3740 Holtzclaw Rd.  
Cumming, GA 30041  
Tuesday 7:30 p.m. Open

## Things We Cannot Change

### Andy Chitty

Sobriety Date 4/17/1989  
Passed 2/7/2016

*If you have a Cartoon or short recovery joke you would like to have printed in The Georgia Message of AA, please submit it to [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.

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

## 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).

# THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA / PAGE 7

Georgia Area Assembly  
Business Meeting  
Sunday, January 17, 2016  
PENDING APPROVAL AT MAY 2016 GSSA

## BUSINESS MEETING

DELEGATE'S REPORT: Ernie M, Panel 66 Delegate

Good morning. My name is Ernie and I am an alcoholic. First, let me thank Area 16 for the privilege of being allowed to represent Area 16 on Panel 66 for the next two (2) years. I will be a Panel 66 Delegate which means my first year as a Delegate matches the Conference year. This year will be the 66 General Service Conferences.

How many First Time Assembly Attendees do we have here with us this morning? ..... Thank you all for coming and welcome to another new adventure in service. Keep Coming Back.

As we begin 2016 let us look back for a moment at the accomplishments of this past year. The 80<sup>th</sup> AA International Convention was held in Atlanta. KUDOS to our Host/Hospitality committee headed by Patty L. and her co-chairs Tom H. and Jim T. Area 16 held 4 Cluster Forums and our 62<sup>nd</sup> Prepaid Convention in Columbus with over 800 attendees and came in under budget. We will receive their final report later this morning.

On October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015, GSO welcomed the new General Manager of the General Services Greg T. Also Jeff W. has been assigned to the Correction Desk, and Sandra W. will be assigned to the Literature Desk. Also noted at the November Board meeting as the end of September 2015, revenues were approximately \$1,167,048 (9.5%) less than budgeted and total operation expenses were \$820,666 under budget. Contributions for the same nine months were \$97,571 less than budget. Net loss for the nine months was \$283,716 compared with a budgeted profit of \$62,663. Grapevine – September YTD cash inflows were \$2,467K vs projected 2145K. This is a total of \$322K ahead of projections. LV shows a gross profit of \$7053 ahead of budget.

GSO sent the financial contributions for Area 16 through November 2015. 54.8 percent of Area 16's groups contributed over \$119 thousand dollars. This is in comparison to 61.3 percent for the year 2014, contributing \$127 thousand dollars. I sent out to each DCM a copy of the Area's contributions by District/Zone for you all to see.

Area 16 has 17 Districts, 50 DCMs, 756 groups and approximately 19,045 members. Your group contributions fund the services that the Area provides. In November we had the DCM planning meeting for the year 2016. The DCMs approved the budget for 2016 including the addition of a part-time employee at the office in Macon to assist with the Office, Website and Archives. The DCMs also added the additional funding for the Committee Co-Chairs lodging for Friday night. Macon. For the Year 2015 our Area contributions show 58 percent (441) of our groups contributed over \$146 thousand dollars to GSSA and 41 % of our groups (313) contributing \$41,900 to the Prepaid Convention. Our Area Treasurer will have more detailed information later this morning on the financial state of Area 16. Congratulations of a productive year.

Later this morning you will be asked to approve four (4) new Committee Chairpersons and their respective Co-Chairs for the next 2 years. – Archives, Communications, Grapevine, and PI/CPC. Please support them as you have done in the past. We will be losing our primary Spanish Translator Richard S. Area 16 wishes you Richard the best on your retirement to Texas.

In April 2016, the Area will be having its pre-conference meeting with the DCMs in preparation for the 66<sup>th</sup> General Conference in New York. This meeting will allow me to hear and carry the voice of Area 16 on numerous agenda items on Finance, PI, CPC, Grapevine, Treat/Special Needs, Corrections, Archives, etc. The DCMs have been asked to shear their respective committee assignments with the groups in their Districts and ring back you wishers to the pre-conference meeting. I have the privilege of being selected a member of the Cooperation with the Professional Committee (PIC). In early February I will receive the complete packet of agenda items for conference and will send the DCMs their respective committee agenda items. This past November, Rebecca T., Tom H., and I had the opportunity to attend the Southern States Alcoholic Anonymous Service Assembly III (SSAASA) in West Virginia. I sent out a letter to the DCMs in December explaining SSAASA and asking for permission to allow Area 16 to submit a bid to host SSAASA IV, in Atlanta in 2017. The event will not cost Area 16 anything as it has been traditionally self-supporting. If Area 16 agrees to Co-Host with Area I (Alabama & North Florida), it will be an excellent opportunity for our Fellowship to not only participate in but attend numerous workshops dealing with service work. A Past Delegate from each area will be on the planning committee along with a Past Southeast Trustee. Of course, as with all functions, we will need volunteers for hospitality, registration, etc. The workshops will be conducted by individuals in the various service positions to include the concepts, traditions, as well as group, district, and area service positions. Workshop facilitators will come from all the areas in the Southeast. I am bringing this to the Assembly hoping for Area 16 to allow your Delegate to submit a bid to Co-Host this event. Three different Areas in the Southeast have expressed a desire to host the SSAASA IV. The host area has not been selected, but we should know by our May Assembly if we were selected. If you approve of Area 16 Hosting, this will allow us to bid for a future SSAASA if we are not selected for SSAASA IV.

What an excellent opportunity for all the members in Area 16 to attend a local "service assembly". What a way to find their respective "niche" in AA. Beginning in 2016, I would like to encourage assembly attendance and participation. When I first came to Assembly in 1991, there was a lot of interest shown in Area 16. Group members pooled their funds along with what groups could afford to give them. We carpooled, shared rooms, meal expenses and had a great time. We attended workshops, the Saturday night Speaker Meeting (usually over 800 in attendance) and didn't leave Sunday morning until the meeting was over. There were times we ate at the Huddle House or shared pizza, but we all survived on what we could afford. We found a way for all to attend who had a desire to come and enjoy this eye opening experience. Remember your first assembly, the hello's and welcomes and finally that "light bulb" turning on.

There are three (3) sides to the AA triangle - Recovery, Unity, and Service. The Big Book guarantees our sobriety as long as we are working with another alcoholic. Fellowship alone will not guarantee my sobriety. I have to be involved in the "whole program" not just the steps. I encourage sponsors today not just to work the steps, but encourage involvement in group participation from set up, clean up, and including carrying the message through service work. Let us all begin "walking the walk" instead of "talking the talk". The Area's PI/CPC committee has been asked by GSO to represent A.A. at two different business functions in 2016. I am sure the committee will be needing volunteers for these displays - "Good Service Work".

As we go through the Assembly this weekend, I encourage you all to use the evaluation forms available at the registration area or on the website. Please take the time to fill out the form/questions. The only way the Assembly can be of better service to you is for you to let us know what is good and what is not working for you. For example: "Do we want to continue to have Saturday evening workshops after the speaker meeting." Attendance is low and should they be continued. Your input is a valuable tool to plan for better assemblies in the future.

Our 2016 General Service Conference will be held in New York City beginning on April 16 with the trip to "Stepping Stones" to begin the conference.. I am very excited to represent Area 16 and to see AA in action at that level. I have been assigned to the CPC Committee – "Cooperation with the Professional Community. That will be my primary committee research area, but I am looking forward to carrying the Area's wishes on the additional other agenda items. I have also asked Tracey Ober from the Trustee's PI Committee to be our guest in September sharing her experience with the CPC and also be our Saturday Night Speaker. Again, many thanks for allowing me to represent Area 16. Questions????

**Recognition of Past Officers: Rebecca T, Chairperson**

Patty L, Past Delegate; David M-Past Delegate; Harold I, Past Treasurer, Glenda M, Past Secretary, Past Office Manager

**Approval of Minutes from January Business Meeting:** No changes. Minutes Approved by a show of hands.

**We Share II Report: Ron G, Communications Chair**

We Share Was Published in 1995 containing:

- Histories of AA Groups throughout Area 16 Submitted by the Groups Organized by District and Zone
- History of GSSA, Southeast Conference, and Southeast Regional Forum
- List and History of Area 16 Delegates
- Submittals to the Grapevine by Area 16 AAs
- History of Old-timers in Area 16



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We Share II Envisioned in 2013 as an Update to We Share

Reproduces Everything in We Share but Organizes Groups in their Current District and Zones

Contains Group Histories Submitted to We Share with any Updates Since 1995

Contains Group Histories of Groups that Did not Submit Histories to We Share plus Groups Started After We Share Original Submittals

Recent Area 16 Delegate Histories

Additions and/or Updates to Old-timers in Area 16

We Share II Scheduled to Be Published in 2015, But Task Proved to Be Greater than Originally Expected

Where Do We Stand Now with We Share II:

Reformatting We Share I to We Share II MS Word Version: 60 à 100%

Identification and Location of Group Submittals: 95 à 100%

1<sup>st</sup> Pass Editing of Group Submittals: 80 à 100%

Identification and Testing of Process Integrating 1<sup>st</sup> Pass Edits into MS Word Version: 50 à 100%

Integration of We Share I and 1<sup>st</sup> Pass Group Edits: 5 à 95%

Commitment from Printer on Cost and Timing: 0 à 25 %

Final Version of We Share II Ready for Printer: 0 à 90%

Printing of We Share II: 0 à 0 %

Distribution of We Share II: 10 à 10%

New Edition has grown to 550 plus pages.

All that Remains to Get a Version Ready for Printing is:

Addition of One Delegate History

Add Remaining Groups in District 17 in English and Spanish

Review of Art Work

Final Quote from Printer

Sign Contract with Printer

Expect to Complete This List by March 1<sup>st</sup>

Time Required to Print and Ship We Share II Edition: 5 – 6 weeks

**Expect We Share II Ready for Distribution Before May Assembly**

### **Final Report from 2015 Pre-Paid Columbus: Jodi W, 62<sup>nd</sup> Prepaid Committee Chair**

Columbus was pleased and honored to host the 62<sup>nd</sup> Georgia State Prepaid Convention October 16 – 18, 2015. We thank you for this wonderful opportunity. Attendance at the convention was 850, which is low compared to previous Georgia Prepaid Conventions. This was expected, as the 2015 International Convention was held in Atlanta in 3 months prior to our convention. The cost of the convention was \$35,358, which was \$6,672 under the \$42,000 budget allocated by the state. The cost savings was primarily due to holding the convention for 3 days rather than 4.

Thank you to the 62<sup>nd</sup> Prepaid Committee for their dedication and hard work in putting together a wonderful convention. I would also like to thank the over 150 volunteers that registered people, made name badges, baked cookies, donated chocolate, gave out hugs & stickers, hosted speakers, and so on. We appreciate the wonderful support and sacrifice from Ernie and Diane. Their experience was invaluable. Thanks to the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention Committee from Jekyll for sharing ideas and information with us. We borrowed their program format and ideas like using volunteers from different groups to chair and read at each meeting instead of having a Voice.

We had 2 host hotels – 1 across from the venue and 1 across the river in Phenix City. The hotel in Phenix City graciously provided a complementary hospitality room, which was filled with goodies mostly donated from district 6 members. We had a hospitality gathering room at the venue, where people could enjoy conversation and coffee. We also placed chocolate at each table during the convention, which was a big hit. I asked for people to donate chocolate, and it began pouring in ... over 200 pounds worth!

The theme of the convention was Celebrating 80 Years of Recovery, Unity, and Service -The Foundation of Our Future, and it was evident in the volunteers and attendees that they were indeed celebrating recovery, unity and service. There were 5 AA speakers and 1 Al-Anon speaker, and they were incredible. We had 2 speakers cancel, which was fine, as we had planned for this and had back-up speakers in mind. Each of them spoke to us from different perspectives and had wonderful stories of recovery to share. We also held discussion AA and Al-Anon meetings throughout the weekend, which were well attended. Dinner with the speakers on Saturday night was a hit serving 195 people. As part of our agreement with the venue, we didn't have a room rental fee on Saturday, since we had the buffet dinner.

When I accepted the position of Chair for this convention, I was hesitant, as I have seen convention committees end with broken relationships and resentments. My prayer from the very first day was that God use each me to serve Him and AA as a whole and place principals before my personality. I learned so much through this amazing experience. I am thankful to my wonderful Alternate Chair – Serena A. Not only did she work hard, but she helped me keep my head on straight. I frequently referred back to the concepts and traditions as guidance. One of my favorites is Concept IX – clearly outlining the qualities and characteristics of good service leaders. I am humbled to be a trusted servant for Alcoholics Anonymous today. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you for this opportunity to serve you. I will see you in Augusta for the 63<sup>rd</sup> Prepaid Convention! With much love – Jodi Wisor Chair 62<sup>nd</sup> Georgia State Prepaid Convention, Columbus, GA

### **Report from 2016 Pre-Paid Convention-Augusta: Jimmy H- Prepaid Committee Chair**

Welcome, the 63<sup>rd</sup> Prepaid Convention will be held in Augusta, GA on 20-23 October 2016. The host hotel for the convention is the Marriott Augusta at the Convention Center, Two Tenth Street, Augusta, GA, 706-722-8900. The theme of the convention is: "Our Spiritual Way of Life: the Steps, the Traditions and the Concepts." The Group Rate for the room at the Marriott is \$125 per night. There are 6 Speakers who are confirmed to speak at the Prepaid Convention; 1 being an Al-Anon Speaker. There are numerous events scheduled during the 4-day period. One of which is the 63<sup>rd</sup> Prepaid Convention Dinner, which will take place on Saturday, 22 October 2016 at 5:00 p.m. The cost is \$20 per person. We have a great menu of entrees and desserts; planned for the dinner. Please send your checks to the address listed on the 63<sup>rd</sup> Prepaid Convention form NLT, 14 October 2016 to attend this fun, fellowshiping event. Following the Speaker Meeting on Saturday night there will be a dance. Meetings, workshops, and displays will be held at the convention. A Hospitality Room will be available at the Host Hotel., for your convenience. A Golf Tournament, Disc Golf, Kayaking, and a Motorcycle Poker Run will be held during this 4-day event. If you have any special needs please list them on the Registration Form, so we can provide assistance. Register early! Come out and support us during the 63<sup>rd</sup> Prepaid Convention in Augusta, GA.

Jimmy H., Chair, 63<sup>rd</sup> Prepaid Convention Committee

Fran M., Co-Chair, 63<sup>rd</sup> Prepaid Convention Committee

#### **AREA OFFICER REPORTS:**

**ALT DELEGATE: Rick M-**Practice these principles in all our affairs. I have been participating in activities starting with the Prepaid in Columbus- District 17 Cluster Forum, PI/CPC Workshop, and DCM Planning Meeting.

Cluster Forum Theme- Our Spiritual Way of Life- Steps-Traditions and Concepts

Connecting with the Newcomer

Connecting With Each other

With AA as a whole

Upcoming Cluster Forums for 2016

Southwest Cluster Forum- Albany March 26, 2016 (Flyer online)

West Central-June



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NE Cluster- August  
Metro Cluster Forum Nov 5<sup>th</sup>

### **Other Upcoming Events-**

Corrections Certification Training- Macon GSSA Office- Jan. 23 - 8:00 -1:00  
Southeast Delegate Get Together- Atlanta Feb 5-7, 2016  
DCM Pre-Conference Macon Marriott- April 2, 2016 11:00-3:00  
66<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference New York April 17-23, 2016  
Georgia AA Service Assembly- Macon Marriott May 20-22, 2016

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT: Debi K, Area 16 Secretary**

#### Attendance at May Assembly:

DCMs	52	Treatment Facilities Reps	9
Alt DCMs	26	Correctional Facilities Reps	15
District Secretary/Treasurer	15	Grapevine Reps	10
GSRs	275	PI/CPC Reps	10
Alt GSRs	65	Communications	2
Group Secretary/Treasurer	15	Archives Reps	8
Members at Large	42		
<b>TOTAL ATTENDANCE</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>Up from September (475)</b>	

Submit Minutes to [districtminutes@aageorgia.org](mailto:districtminutes@aageorgia.org) Check email- aageorgia.org Group Change Form online- or email Tamara- Tamara will notify GSO in NY of any changes. Keep information updated so newcomers can find us.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT: Diane M, Area 16 Treasurer**

AROUND THE PICNIC TABLE (PowerPoint slides available on aageorgia.org)

Last year we began an initiative to simplify the financial reporting process to help the Assembly more easily understand our financial condition and reduce expenses associated with printing the full report. The summarized slides will be distributed during the year with the full report distributed at the end of each year. The full report, along with the summarized slides, will always be available online at aageorgia.org. We welcome your feedback.

Over the past two years we have focused on how contributions are being used within Area 16 to "Carry the Message." Are we being good stewards? To answer this questions we are going to look at 9 key numbers highlighted in yellow.

1. Contributions -2015 total contribution were \$158.8k, 2014 was \$158.4 and was \$8k greater than budget.
2. Total Operating Expenses: 2015 total operating expenses were \$148k, \$13k lower than 2014 and \$23k lower than budget. \$93.9k, or 64%, pertained to operating our State Office here in Macon and \$40k, or 27%, was associated with the State Assembly.
3. Income from Operations: \$13k decrease in operating expenses provided a Net Income from operations of \$11k. Typically, income from operations is supplemented by literature sales. Last year is the first year, over at least the last 10, where literature profits were not needed to meet operating expenses. We have made deep cuts in our operating budget to rebuild our cash reserves which, overtime, will be reversed so this phenomenon is not sustainable.
4. Literature & Grapevine Income: Literature sales were \$83.7k, down \$24k from 2014 and down 8k from budget. 2014 sales were high due to the reprint of the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Big Book but, due to the availability of e-Books we need to continue to plan on a decrease in literature sales through GSSA.
5. Literature & Grapevine Expense : Literature expenses were also down in relation to the decrease in sales but the gross margin, or the percentage of net profit to sales, were disproportionate in 2015 compared to 2014 or budget.
6. Gross Margin: Gross margin, which is the percentage of the sales price that is income, was 22% in 2014 and budgeted at 19% in 2015. "Gross margin prior to adjustment" was 11% in 2015 which was a red flag. We reviewed the inventory and revenue reporting process and found that the literature purchases were recognized as an expense when the literature was shipped or sold but we were not recognizing the revenue from that sale until the cash was received. Financial reporting standards state that revenue and expenses should be reported at the same time when inventory is involved even when the organization reports on a cash basis. When revenue and expenses are not reported at the same time it becomes difficult to budget or to identify an issues that may arise because you lose the ability to compare results from one year to the next.
7. Cumulative Reporting Error: The correction of the Literature Reporting methodology caused a cumulative reporting error adjustment of \$6.6k of additional income for 2015. This correction effectively moves the sales from one year to another and reverses the bad debt expense previously recognized against revenue that was not recognized. "Gross margin after adjustment" was 19% which was more in line with expected results.
8. Net Income/Loss: The effects of Income from Operations and Income from Other items enabled us to end the year with a Net Income of \$28k against a budget of \$2k net loss and \$22k net income from 2014.
9. Reserve Fund: The reserve fund is affected by two factors: total operating expenses and contributions in excess of our operating account. Both of these factors enabled us to end 2015 with 8.74 months of cash that could be used to cover operating expenses which is significantly higher than the 5.91 months at the end of 2014.

The Income Statement by Committee slide contains the same information as the Income Statement by Category with the exception of how the Operating Expenses are displayed. This slide shows the expenses by Committee or Service area while the previous slide showed those expenses by expense type. While the Contributions, Total Expenses, Net Income etc. are the same, it is beneficial to see the breakdown by Committee to know how our contributions are being used to carrying the message.

Total Current Assets – primarily our Prudent Reserve, was \$124.6k. Total Assets were \$176k rounded. Prior Year Adjustment – decreased retained earnings by \$3k due to the effects of the cumulative reporting adjustment. Total Liabilities & Equity – equals Total Assets of \$176.

To help us better understand the costs associated with producing the Pre-Paid State Convention and be able to compare expenses by geographical areas we analyzed the expense details for the conventions from 2012 to 2015 and created both a detailed and summarized financial trend. This slide shows the summary of this trend and has 4 values highlighted that I want to discuss.

Contributions – we received \$41.9k from groups this year that were earmarked for the prepaid and \$600.00 was earned in interest for a total income of \$42.5k which is higher than the previous 3 years.

Total expenses - incurred by the 62<sup>nd</sup> Convention were \$35k

Net Income affecting the reserve balance was \$7k

Reserve Balance- ended the year at 2.98 conventions

The prepaid financial trend, including both the details and summary information, is available on line at aageorgia.org under Prepaid Reports

We have looked at our financial condition and we are in much better shape than we have been in recent years but our expenses are dependent upon contributions. The 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition Contributions affect what we can provide to Area 16 in Services. So let's look at our 7<sup>th</sup> tradition contributions in more detail.

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Earlier we saw that contributions for 2015 were the same as 2014 but we need to look at the details to truly see what happened. Group contributions were higher in 2015 by \$2k. Assembly and Special Contributions were down \$4k. Committee members opted to donate \$2.3k back to GSSA in contributions rather than receive their reimbursement checks.

Let's make sure we have plenty of anniversary envelopes at our meetings and educate our group consciences on the purpose of those envelopes which is to send a monetary value of our gratitude for our sobriety. Talk to your group conscience about automatically handing the recipients of anniversary chips the anniversary contribution envelopes which is just one method that is being done. Think about other creative ways to communicate the anniversary donations within your groups and share them with me and others.

Regarding the Assembly contributions, total cost to hold the assemblies in 2015 was \$40.1k. Assembly basket contributions were \$8.8k. Each assembly cost \$28.20 per person to attend and we collected in the basket is \$6.20 per person. Think about how your sobriety is enhanced by the Assembly or about how much coffee you drink during the Assembly weekend and let's put into the basket our gratitude contribution for our sobriety and/or a couple of dollars for each cup of coffee we drink.

Looking at the contribution history from 2005 through 2015 of GSSA and Prepaid is an eye opener. As you can see, we have been somewhat stagnant with respect to contributions until we reacted to our financial problems in 2014 and we stagnated again in 2015. We added several items to the 2016 budget, one of which is a part time employee to help Tamara, Web & Archives committees. So we have to continue to focus on contributions.

Another way to look at Contributions is through the percentage of groups contributing. As you can see the percentage of groups contributing to GSSA reached a 10 year low in 2015 after a 10 year high in 2012. Each of you received the contributions by group at the end of your financial reports. Look at your district and zone to see which groups may not have contributed and let's visit those groups to see if they need help and are connected within the Service Structure.

It is interesting to see the percentage of groups contributing in conjunction with the contributions by group. A smaller percentage of groups contributed last year and covered the expenses of the state. When talking about contributions with others, one of my go to sources is our Self Support: Where money and Spirituality Mix pamphlet.

Page 13 shows the GSO **sample distributions** through the service structure. **Of course, the sample begins with the distribution to be determined by your group conscience.** In Georgia, we have a recommended distribution which is available in the GA Message which also references the percentages to be in accordance with our Group Conscience. We need to continue to educate our Group Conscience on the financial condition of each area within the service structure to determine the best allocation of our 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition basket contributions.

I would be remiss if I didn't include information regarding inflation. In 1945 we put a dollar in the basket as gratitude for our sobriety. That dollar today is equivalent to 8 cents but many of us still put a dollar in the basket. A good way to look at this that we can all relate to in AA is the cost of one cup of coffee today is equivalent to a pot of coffee in 1945.

In closing, I think we demonstrated that we are being good stewards of the contributions received through the significant expense reductions but we know these reductions are not sustainable long term. For us to continue to stay viable in the years to come, ensuring AA is here for the next suffering alcoholic, we have to stay focused on contributions, more specifically the spiritual nature of our monetary gift of gratitude.

**OLD BUSINESS- Rebecca T- Chairperson-** Read from page 13 of Georgia AA Service Manual

**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 Mics are open for discussion-

**Frank M- DCM 13 D-** I've had the opportunity and pleasure to attend a couple of Prepays and I understand the principle of having a convention that is prepaid so that folks who don't have the funds can attend and not have to pay a registration fee. Yet the two that I attended required me to pay for accommodations, my meals, and my gas which ran around \$300. So if an attendee needs to spend that kind of money to go, is it really necessary for the state to cover the cost of the actual convention? I looked at the expenses and attendance of the last four as reported in the Georgia Message and I think if you divide the total cost by the number of attendees, on average, the registration fee would probably be somewhere between \$25 and \$30 to cover the entire cost of the Prepaid. So, in considering the fact that the area does a tremendous amount of service work as we've seen over the last two days and always seem to be operating on a shoestring. It would seem to me that the groups shouldn't be contributing to a Prepaid, rather they could send more funds to the Area in their contributions. Thank you they could use the money given to the Prepaid. Thank you

**Rusty L- GSR Chapter Three group in Sandy Springs District 13 A.** I stand in opposition to motion for three reasons:

One of the items put forward is that everybody else has a paid convention, why don't we? We don't necessarily have to do everything everybody else does. If it's a good idea than we should, but not necessarily in this situation.

To address the points that were just brought up, I too, pay my expenses when I go to these things and I have enjoyed them as well but it seems to me that, based on the numbers presented, that the Prepaid funds are pretty much covering us every time. The only time it hasn't is when it's been in Atlanta which is often the case because expenses are higher in Atlanta. We just all know that. I would suggest that those who can afford to go and pay those expenses do. We seem to be doing a pretty good job covering the convention.

Addressing those who cannot afford to go. Rarely do those folks pay the kind of expenses that we do. In my experience, I do not know all the experiences of people who come who could not afford to register, I doubt many of them have \$300 necessarily to pay; some probably do. But, oftentimes, they'll room with multiple people, they'll ride with multiple people, so those expenses get shared. So to use an individual's expenses to label those who can't afford a full amount of expense for an individual person, I think, is a little unfair. I understand it and, from my personal standpoint, I pay my individual expenses when I go. But, I share a room too so really it's cut in half. Thanks

**Austin P- GSR Freedom Club Marietta 13 J-** I stand in opposition of making this a paid convention. I want to share my experience with the convention that just happened in Columbus. I'm only 17 months sober and I've been afforded the opportunity to be GSR and so many different opportunities for service work. Something that was afforded to me was very last second with the convention I was able to help host a young people's party at the convention in conjunction with the Triangle Club which is in Phenix City, Alabama, which is a brand new clubhouse, etc., etc. I was able to contact Jodi, and thank you so much wherever you are for your work and for helping me out. But, I didn't think I was going to be able to make it down there. I had to borrow some money from my aunt and another friend in sobriety gave me a little bit of money. And, I really only had like \$30 to go down there. I was able to make it down there and some of the people at the Triangle Club down there have become like a third family to me. I go down there almost once a month, just paying for gas. I stay with them once a month in their house, and, without getting emotional, that Prepaid Convention has given me one of the greatest opportunities to connect with other people in sobriety. And, I think, that's what this thing's about, is connecting with people. Thank you

**Don B- DCM 12A-** Keep it simple- I try to keep this program simple. We've been doing this for a lot of years and I've had the opportunity to go to other areas and conventions. Some areas do not have a convention every year because they cannot afford it and don't have enough participation. The state of South Carolina is one of those; they have it about every other year. I live in South Carolina. I have a home group in Georgia, but I live in South Carolina. They just don't have enough participation. Maryland is another area up there where it's the same thing. They don't get enough participation and it's hard for them to have a convention. We, being prepaid, the groups pay into this convention, and we're able to have it. If it ain't broke, let's don't try to fix it.

**Liz W-DCM 5C in Savannah-** I just want to point out that our city, and I'm sure a lot of cities, have things called halfway houses. And, we have a couple of men's and women's halfway houses that had the opportunity to participate, even in the Jekyll Island convention. If we had not had a prepaid convention, the newcomer would not have been able to participate. And, I think we need to keep the very new newcomer in mind too. They're staying in the

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city where the events being hosted.

Chris S- GSR Sharpsburg Serenity Group 10 D- I would like to say something for the people who could not afford to be here this morning. I'm a convention guy and take people to conventions and that kind of thing. I moved here from Area 1 five years ago and have been involved in the Prepaid Conventions and we have a van-full every time we go. And, it's always new people that just are in love with Alcoholics Anonymous and it's a big deal that those people couldn't go if it wasn't a prepaid convention. That's all there is to it. We go to other conventions and there is two of us in the van. We go to the prepaid and there's ten.

Jessica- DCM 13 G- I've been involved in our state young people's convention. GCYPAA for quite some time. We are, of course, a paid convention and we pay for our entire conference through registration fees and we've never turned any one away for lack of payment. We have a scholarship fund. So I don't think that it's an issue. We don't turn anyone away if they can't afford to attend. We always invite halfway houses and treatment centers and anyone else who needs to attend for free. Thanks

Larry GSR-Fresh Start Group Douglasville- If you look at the Treasurer's report here, there's over 300 groups that don't give to the Georgia Prepaid. I agree with what the gentleman said to let's keep it simple. I said this at the last Assembly that it's really up to the groups. It doesn't have to be a long drawn-out process. I'm for keeping the Georgia Prepaid as it is. In every group, we have the people who can afford it who sponsor other people to attend these Georgia Prepays. Let's not forget that. One thing I've learned in my 3 ½ years of AA is that it's the 15-20% that support the 100%. Let's not forget that. Let's keep it simple; let's leave it like it is.

Lisa GSR 14 C- If it weren't for the Prepaid conference, I wouldn't be able to be here. I had a work-related injury and have been out of work since February. But now I have a lot of time to actually contribute in service. And the other thing is, with the money that I was able to bring, because my hotel and Assembly was paid for, I could purchase books and materials. I might not have had that opportunity if it hadn't been paid for. Thank you

Chris M. Alt DCM District 8 - Call the Question –

Motion on the floor to call the question- An Alternate DCM cannot call the Question-only a GSR can call the question

Bill D- Marietta GA Group 164- I mainly have a question regarding this overall subject regarding the reserve that I understand we presently have \$118,077 in reserve to cover Prepaid Conventions. Is my understanding of that correct? (Rebecca T- That is correct.) This may be a separate issue something that is going to be discussed later, as to why do we have that much of a reserve, roughly three years or two point something for conventions. Is that really a good use of that reserve money; could it not, in some sense, be used for people who cannot afford the \$35 or whatever. But, it may be a separate issue. That's why I question it and again, it may not have a direct relation to the motion on the floor for a vote.

Rebecca T- Chairperson-That's a wonderful question. The answer to that is currently the registration fee is prepaid by the groups; that is why that money is in reserve. The groups have earmarked that money accordingly. Our B & F committee is looking at that reserve. We are waiting until after we've had several different votes regarding our Prepaid Convention which led up to this one to move it from prepaid to paid, that we have not taken any action or gone any further about what's in the reserve and what possibly to do with that. So we are waiting until after this motion today to then see how the body is going to move forward from there. So that would cover everyone's expenses as well as what it costs to put on a convention. Does that answer your question?

Bill D- Marietta GA Group 164- Yes, thank you. Darren GSR Douglasville Group- Call the question

Rob G- GSR Unity Group 1 B 2nd the motion to call the question. Vote on calling the question. Show of hands. We have a 2/3 majority. We are now ready to vote on the motion. Vote by show of hands- we need 2/3 of the GSRs present. **Motion did not carry. Minority Opinion None**

**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.

Dana-13 A- Ad Hoc committee brought to the table certain discussion points and then there was a recommendation.

First, I did not understand the discussion points thoroughly, what they were even trying to say #2- I did not see how they related to the recommendation. I was wondering if maybe they could articulate those further. Or, if those could be brought back up for discussion?

Joe W- Chair of Ad Hoc Committee- Everything that was in the report is the Message. What is your question?

Dana 13 A- I read the report and, forgive me, I didn't understand it. It cited some statistics that, in my mind, seemed to point to advocate for a DCM or an Alt DCM being able to make a motion indicate the opposite of what the motion was requesting. There were points on the PowerPoint slide that seemed to recommend the opposite of what the group had recommended.

Joe W- Chair of Ad Hoc Committee- Doing an Ad Hoc committee report is very enlightening and very difficult. We didn't have anything to read or to research. We polled everybody, except Tom, my bad. We polled the vast majority of people around the state especially past delegates and trustees, and most were not in favor. There are areas Nathan made a real good argument for in the book. We found, I don't see the page on here, page 46 in the manual (depending on which book you're reading.), 4th paragraph, 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence, Bill W, in parentheses writes that "only GSRs should have the right to vote at Assembly". That swayed our entire thing; that's the reason the entire Ad Hoc report came out that we recommend that we keep it like we have it. I will tell you, today's attendance according to Tamara's numbers is 100% DCM; 34% GSRs. Any other questions? The report was a report for a reason; my personal view is totally different.

Buddy C- Alt GSR- Fellowship Group Douglasville. Why should we give two votes to each group? That's what you're doing. If you vote that DCMs and Alt DCMs the right to vote, then you're giving each group two votes instead of one. Thank you

Diane- GSR-Union Street Group Brunswick- To respond to that gentlemen's comment. There is only one DCM for the entire district which represents a number of groups. So, it's not giving each group two votes. Is the participation 100% DCM? (Rebecca T- It's not 100%) In the Concepts, which was written later, and written after Bill made that quote, before the DCMs were really in place and the districts were established to help become a go-between the GSRs and GSO and the state office, the GSSA, he made the comment before the Concepts really came in place. Because as Alcoholics Anonymous grew into the millions, things changed. It was more difficult to maintain a direct democracy, which is what we are. Which means to me, the monkeys are running the zoo and I'd like to keep it that way. I don't want anybody telling me what to do and I don't think any of the GSRs here either do. But, the point I want to make, I want to read Concept 10 and the point I want to make surrounding that is there's a true representation of what's happening out there in the field. There are so many GSRs that don't come to the Assembly and usually the DCM is aware of what that group conscience is in their district so I'm for voting that the DCMs get a vote. (Time-2 minutes are up)

John M- Alt DCM District 9- Made a motion, not this past September, but the September before last, as a GSR. The following Assembly, there was some discussion about the motion. But, it states in our guidelines, that only the person who makes the motion can amend the motion. I was an Alternate DCM at the time and I could not amend my own motion. We need to look at all the ins and outs about this and sometimes DCMs are more informed, but I also agree that each GSR should have a vote, but, out of seven groups, we have three GSRs here today. A lot of GSRs just can't financially afford to come, especially in the rural areas.

Nathan- DCM-13 A -Joe W's statement about Bill Wilson being against this is categorically untrue- Read from service manual –*Eligibility to vote- Generally speaking, all area Committee Members and office members, and all GSRs have one vote in each Assembly. Experience indicates that even though Committee Members (DCMs) and GSRs are members of a group in an area that is represented by a GSR, they are entitled to a vote at the Assembly. Alternates vote only if the regular DCM or GSR is not present.* AA Service Manual p S37 2014-15 Edition) We are the only Area who does not allow DCMs the right to vote. As far as the one vote, one group, (I'm not sure where that comes from) If you look at Conference, every office worker at GSO has a vote at Conference. If you think about it in that sense, you would say that New York, or southern New York, has thirty votes at Conference. While that might be technically true, the reality is that these are some of the most informed, most involved people and we want their votes. Thank you

Dixie- GSR Northside Group- The way that I was taught about service structure is that each member of Alcoholics Anonymous, it is our responsibility, to protect the Traditions, to be involved in our home groups, to be informed, to become informed members of Alcoholics Anonymous. When you have an individual who has a vote that is the same as a group, for me, that doesn't fly. It would be different if you were talking about financial issues and stuff like that, bring the vote; bring those GSRs votes to GSSA. But, when you're saying that in my group of 20 that our DCM will have the same power as us, that gives them two votes --one in their home group and another vote. For me, when I read this motion, I was really shocked just because I did-

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n't know that something like this could come to the floor. I've been coming to Assembly on a regular basis since I got sober in 2001. One of the things that got me involved, is that we had a DCM who said, "It's your fault if you don't know what's going on." I have to take responsibility for my recovery; and I have to take responsibility for my participation in the Steps, the Traditions, and the Concepts. Thank you

Dale W DCM 11A-My own personal opinion on how it stands now is that the DCMs already have the right to vote at the group level. They vote within their group. They bring their vote to the Assembly, then what vote are they casting? Are they casting their personal vote or the vote of their district? Are they polling the district? If they're polling the district, to do the majority of what they want, then why do we have GSRs here?

Tom-Alt DCM 16D – I was GSR for five years, I believe it was Diane, who is sitting up there right now, who did the GSR orientation-. At that time, you were told, as I believe you were told yesterday. You, as the GSR, have the most important job in Alcoholics Anonymous. This assembly is yours. I understand that there are people who cannot be here. No world is perfect; that is always going to be the case and I'm sorry it is that way. This is your Assembly, you bring the votes here. You have the most important job in Alcoholics Anonymous, not the DCMs, not the Alt DCMs.

Tom H- Office Committee Chair- First I would like to congratulate the person who coined the phrase, "One group one vote". I don't know who did that, but they were genius. Because really what that does is end debate immediately in most people's head. They hear that line; it sounds correct and it ends debate and nowhere else in Alcoholics Anonymous is that true. I've spoken to some people around the state and I think this is really about fear. I think if the DCMs had a vote, they may not influence their districts enough. When they do, they actually get 8-10-14 votes, depending on how many GSRs and I think that we are not supposed to lead the body, we're supposed to lead the meeting. And, if I had a vote here as DCM, I would be less likely to do that. One of the fears I heard was, "We'll always have Atlanta elect the Delegates and Trustees if the DCMs get a vote. And I think the numbers in the report are a little flawed and lead that way if you look at it. If 85% of the DCMS are always here, that's about 30 votes versus usually 200+ GSRs. What are we afraid of? You're eliminating typically somebody who does have more experience. There opportunity to weigh-in at Conference and what Nathan said is true. I wanted to read something that I know is true (don't want to throw Joe under the bus) Concept 9, First Page bottom paragraph- It says: *only GSRs can elect the Delegate*. That's what Bill said in Concept 9. Of course what Nathan said under *Eligibility to Vote* in the manual is that everybody should get a vote. We shouldn't be thinking about two votes per group. My vote is for what's best in AA.

Dana DCM 13A- A lot of people came from a lot of different places today. In my mind, I just hate to think there are two classes of alcoholics here. For the people who take the time out of their day to come down here and to participate, they ought to get a vote.

John Alt GSR Blue Ridge-Call the Question, GSR Turning Point in 14C 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, Show of hands to call the question. We have a majority so we will move to vote on the motion on the floor. Show of hands

**Motion does not carry. Minority Opinion-**

Did not identify- I just want to read from Concept X -*Good service leaders, along with sound and appropriate methods for choosing them are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety. The primary world services leadership, once exercised by the founders of A.A. must necessarily be assumed by the Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.* (Secretary's note. This quote is from Concept IX. p 34 AA Service Manual 2014-15 Edition). Sorry- I meant to read Concept X- *Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority-the scope of such authority to be always well defined whether by tradition, by resolution, by specific job description or by appropriate charters and by-laws.* (AA Service Manual 2014-15 Edition p. 41) The DCMs have a large service responsibility and as GSR of my group, I voted like my group told me to. And, I think that service goes the same way up the ladder that a DCM would vote on behalf of their district for GSRs that can't afford to come and spend \$272 for a hotel room.

Bill D GSR 164 Group Marietta- In my GSR experience, there are some subjects that are not in agreement within my group. We have our own way of determining what I reflect when I do speak to this group. The same thing occurs with the GSRs in our zone. There are differences of opinions. Those are represented and understood best by our DCMS. When we restrict their right to vote, as we already have agreed to do so, I just feel it may diminish their participation. In every level of AA, my interest is to increase participation as much as possible. If DCMS participation is diminished, I don't see that as positive to our long-term interests.

Katie-GSR- Northside Young People's group 13 G. Odd that we, the GSRs, take the time to elect DCMs. These are people who are trusted and educated that we've chosen to lead our District meetings. They come to GSSA with us; they participate. I don't feel threatened, personally, as a GSR in allowing that person to have a vote. Because, I elected that person to be our DCM.

Rebecca T- Chairperson announced moneys collected this weekend from passing the basket:

Basket for the weekend \$3292- = \$6.05 per person

Cost (average) \$13,700.00 per person = \$25.18 per person

Did not count moneys in the boxes on the stage.

At the last three Conferences at GSO, we did an inventory. Those inventories are available: one per group. The Spanish version is not available as yet.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Approval of new Area Committee Chairs/Co-Chairs-**

Grapevine- Dorman P- Chair, Robert M- Co-Chair; PI/CPC- Chase S-Chair, Maxwell S- Co-Chair; Co-Chair; Archivist- Gary N- Chair, Fred I, Co-Chair

Communications: Ron G-Chair, Gary J-Co-Chair

#### **Show of Hands- Approved**

**Bids for 2018 PrePaid Convention-** Jim T, Alt DCM District 16B (Athens) Oct 26-28, 2018

Convention Center and Host Hotels. Athens- Classic Center- Downtown . 2002-2010. Seating for over 2500 in Grand Halls 1-7

Banquet Style seating for Ga-Florida Football game. Cost \$15,000 for the entire convention. Hotel- Hilton Garden Inn Host Hotel \$139. Holiday Inn \$109. Holiday Inn Express- \$99 with complimentary breakfast . All hotels New Hyatt with Classic Center- may be completed by 2018. Lots to do . Adjacent to UGA Campus. No other bids for the 2018 Prepaid. DCM will bring confirmation of information in writing. We will take a vote by a show of hands at the May GSSA Business Meeting.

**Co-host SSAASA-** (Southern States Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly) Ernie M, Delegate requested the Assembly approve Area 16 as co-host of the SSAASA Conference to be held in Atlanta. SSAASA is self-supporting so no Area 16 funds will be required. We will need volunteers from our members. We will co-host with North Florida and Alabama.

What is needed? Financially, SSAASA has been historically self-supporting through the registration fees. Each SSAASA has passed on "seed" money to the next event. Area 1 – Alabama/NW Florida would like to host the next SSAASA with us in November, 2017 with a location near but outside Atlanta being the venue site. A past Delegate from each area will be on the Committee with a past SE Trustee, in planning the event. Of course, as with all functions we will need to provide volunteers for hospitality, registration, etc. (There were volunteers from all the southeast at the last SSAASA.) The workshops will be conducted by people in the various service positions to include the Concepts, Traditions, as well as group, district, and area service positions. Workshop facilitators will come from all the areas in the southeast.

#### **Questions:**

Janine DCM- When will we find out if we've been awarded the SSAASA Convention.?

Rebecca T Chairperson- Not sure at this point. Ernie, our Delegate will get info at the Delegates' Get-together in February

Ernie will send a message via email

Gena-GSR-14 C What are the potential dates?

Rebecca T- Not sure at this time. If we are awarded the conference, we will consult with the other Areas in the region to see what dates they have. We will review the calendar and events to determine a date. We know it will be in November 2017 –this would be the third event for us in November with a Metro Cluster Forum and the DCM Planning meeting. We will consult with the other areas to see what available dates they have as well as our co-hosts and areas in the Southeast Region to see what dates they have. We want their support as well.

Gena-Potentially the third week?

Rebecca T. Chairperson- No, we just know it will be in November 2017. We will have to pick that date and it will also depend on availability of the hotel.



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Frank S-GSR-White Bluff Group Do you need a motion?

Rebecca T, Chairperson- No just a show of hands

Show of hands- In favor-unanimous

### **General Sharing**

Diane GSR Union Street Group- Is it an anomaly that the Agenda was not posted on the website 30 days prior to the Assembly?

Rebecca T, Chairperson- Yes, it is out there. I apologize; I assumed it was out there. These are posted in the Message but we will ensure the agenda is posted on the website as well. Letter from Delegate sent out in December. We will make a note of this –Ernie and I review you and we will ask Tamara to help us with that timeline.

Jenine M-DCM, Message Editor-It is in the current message (may not be 30 days in advance)

Jack GSR-SOS-Group Blue Ridge- 2014 Ad Hoc Committee Report on the website about the reserve funds regarding the Prepaid Convention's excess funds. Referring to the Ad Hoc committee report- there was a part of the motion that included how to handle excess funds from the Prepaid Convention. I wonder where that's at.

Rebecca T- Chairperson- There was a part in there about what to do about Prepaid funds and distribution. At that time, we asked our Budget & Finance committee to take that, just so you know our Budget and Finance Committee is made up of a current and past DCM, the current and past Treasurer, the Alt Delegate, as well as our Office Manager. We went back with a charge to them about what to do. Out of that, the B & F committee made a recommendation. We did not act on this recommendation because, we had a motion with 13-14 recommendations which affected the Prepaid budget. Then, right after that, we had the motion that we voted on this morning recommending to change the prepaid to paid. So we asked them to hold on to their recommendation. Today in new business, any current motions on the floor have been voted on and decided. We would now go back to the B & F report.

Diane M, Area Treasurer, read the recommendation from the B & F Committee made in 2014:

**Prepaid Convention Prudent Reserve:** B&F reviewed the Prepaid Convention prudent reserve in 2014 and recommended the following:

Maintain a 110% of the prior year's prepaid convention expenses in the operating account

Maintain no more than one year's budget amount set by the Office Committee in the reserve account. Current budget is \$42,000 - \$45,000 (budgeted amount), less the Assembly vote to move meals & mileage expenses from the Prepaid Budget to the GSSA budget.

Convention costs vary by city as well as the timing of contractual payment obligations. Maintaining, in effect, cash to cover 2 Conventions was believed to be a balance between using the funds for which they were earmarked and preventing their excess accumulation.

Rebecca T, Chairperson- I will ask Diane to put that recommendation out on the website just by itself. Therefore, everybody understands that is where we're at. We don't have a motion to do anything with the recommendation so there would not be a vote.

Darren GSR- Douglasville Group 10B- Observation- 4<sup>th</sup> Edition BB are falling apart. What can we do as an Assembly to notify that the 4<sup>th</sup> Editions are falling apart? I have a third Edition that remains intact.

Rebecca T, Chairperson- if you have a problem with these books, send an email to [communications@aageorgia.org](mailto:communications@aageorgia.org) to poll is a widespread issue in the area or not. Gather data.

### **Motion- Steve C-GSR Baldwin County Group**

A policy be created to move funds between the Pre-Paid and GSSA prudent reserves such that the Pre-Paid reserve balance does not exceed 200% or fall below 150% of the most recent three year average convention cost. GSSA cannot move more funds to the Pre-Paid reserve account than was previously received from the Pre-Paid.

Alan – GSR Serenity Group- 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion

Delegate will appoint an Ad Hoc Committee- to study this issue (DCMs or subject-matter experts. We rely heavily on our B & F Committee but our delegate may add additional DCMs)

They will bring back a report in May.

### **Motion: Calvin F- 13 H DeKalb Group**

To eliminate the Area Workshops after the Speaker Saturday night of the assembly.

Jessica GSR 12 A 2<sup>nd</sup> Motion

Diane GSR Union Street Group- Motion to alter the motion – Diane- Change the late night time of the different workshops to coincide with GSR Orientation at 1:00 on Saturday so the folks who are not new GSRs could attend other workshops to learn about other service positions.

Rebecca T- Chairperson- The problem with that is Committee Chairs are in the DCM Meeting at that time and would not be available. This is not technically a manual change; however, since it has been the policy of this Assembly to have those 9:30 workshops, we will treat it similar to an actual manual change. What it says is "other meetings or sessions found desirable by the Delegate shall be scheduled during the weekend provided they are within these guidelines". The guidelines do not talk about Saturday night workshops. In May, we will hear a report from an Ad Hoc Committee and then we can move forward with this. So therefore the body is speaking about how you want your Assembly presented. Do we have any discussion?

Jack-GSR Blue Ridge- I would like to amend it, with your permission, to leave the Georgia State Office open for the purpose of preserving the archives. I love going over there and looking at the archives after the speaker meeting; if that's at all possible.

Rebecca T- Chairperson- The Delegate has heard that and he will add that into the Ad Hoc Committee report.

Jocelyn- GSR- Walton Group 11A- 2nd year GSR. I did not know that the contribution amount suggested in the Message are just a suggestion. Aha moment –New Clarity that the Suggested Contributions are suggested. My group can adjust and change those formulas. Use the website to keep track. I did not realize they were suggested contributions.

Michela GSR -Perimeter Group- Motion to close. Hold the motion- Two people at the mic

Chris M- DCM 1 A- Discussion of the motion- Moving reserve money- This money was sent in by groups for a specific purpose. It was for the Prepaid. Whether that reserve builds up is irrelevant. That money is earmarked for that one thing. If we start moving the money back and forth, we are controlling what the groups have already sent their money in for. If we think that we need to send more money to GSSA and less to the prepaid, then we, as DCMs, need to convey that to our GSRs to adjust the percentages of donations. Whether the Prepaid builds up 3-years, 10-years, 15-years, the groups are sending that money in for that. I don't think we have a right to move that money without their permission. This money that has accumulated is from groups that contributed years ago. The fair thing to do would be to send the money back to the groups who donated that money for that specific purpose. Then you're opening up a whole can of worms. But, that money is being sent in for a specific reason, for the Prepaid and I think it needs to stay there. And us as DCMs and GSRs need to convey the idea back to our groups. Send more money to GSSA; send a little less to Prepaid.

Frank, GSR White Bluff Group- Something we used to do is to request that if a group was going to make a motion that they give 60 days in advance to allow printing of that motion in the Agenda to give us a chance to kick around the idea. We could've been called to vote on some of the motions today without having any chance to think about it for consideration. Just food for thought.

Rebecca T- Chairperson- Our manual does allow for motions from the floor but that is why we go through the three-assembly process. We have a study group. So the GSRs are now charged, and this information will be in the minutes that will be in the next Message, to take this back to their home groups, discuss it in their home groups. In May, you will hear from the Ad Hoc Committee, then you will discuss it again with your DCMs in your districts.

Motion to close (Michela) Trina-GSR 14 C 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion Adjournment- Prayer Spanish/English

# **SOUTHWEST** CLUSTER FORUM

LOCATION: Liberty Baptist Church  
1109 Liberty Expressway S.E.  
Albany, GA 31705  
Contact Number: (229) 220-6851

**HOSTED BY AREA 16 DISTRICT 1 ZONE A**

**SATURDAY - MARCH 26, 2016**

**"Our Spiritual Way of Life: Steps, Traditions, & Concepts"**

Connecting With the Newcomer

1. All Inclusive – Never Exclusive
2. Are We Doing Enough to Help the Newcomer – Are We Going to Any Length?
3. Home Group – Where It Begins

Connecting With Each Other

1. Singleness of Purpose – Staying Pertinent in a Changing World
2. Informed Group Conscious – The Key to Unity
3. Be Involved, Be Inspired, Be of Service

Connecting With A.A. as a Whole

1. Participating in All of A.A.
2. Understanding Self-Support
3. Reaching Out to the Next Generation of A.A.'s

**REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 8:30 A.M.**

**PROGRAM: 9:30 A.M. TO 1:30 P.M.**

**Coffee and Snacks will be provided.**

**LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED**

What are Cluster Forums? Forums provide a unique opportunity to share valuable experience, ask questions and spark new ideas. How do they work? They are sharing sessions designed to enhance and widen communication among members of AA, service and potential service people, and representatives of the Groups, Districts and the Area.

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

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Group: ☐ AA ☐ Al-Anon ☐ Alateen

Interested in: ☐ Golf Tournament ☐ Disc Golf ☐ Kayaking ☐ Motorcycle Poker Run

Special Needs: ☐ Hearing (Signer Available) ☐ Sight ☐ Wheelchair

☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail Registration Form to:**

63<sup>rd</sup> Prepaid Convention, District 12, P.O. Box 204044, Martinez, GA 30917

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[www.aageorgia.org/prepaid.htm](http://www.aageorgia.org/prepaid.htm)

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