

DELEGATE / delegate@aageorgia.org

Confidential for members
March / April 2017
Volume 51, Numbers 3-4

Take on a New Meaning

By Ernie M.
Area 16 Delegate

"Life will take on a new meaning. To watch people recover, to see them help others, to watch loneliness vanish, to see a fellowship grow up about you, to have a host of friends – this is an experience you must not miss." *Alcoholics Anonymous*, p.89. I recently had the privilege of celebrating my 28th anniversary in this Fellowship. Our speaker with over 30 years of sobriety talked about his being sober, but away from AA meetings for quite a few years. He started back to **meetings** and found the ability to rejuvenate his sobriety, relationship with others and most of all himself. I tend to take my own sobriety lightly at times. In listening to this man, I realized exactly what was around me. A room of almost 75 people, ranging from a few days to many years of sobriety were enthralled by this man. There was a lot of discussion after the meeting, most of it dealing with attendance at meetings. What were we giving back to each other and to the "newcomer"? Were we doing all

that was possible in strengthening our group and our Fellowship? Were we giving back that which was so freely given to us? Were we carrying the right message? Look at your home group and decide for yourselves.

Area 16 recently (this past Assembly) had to be aware of what our State Convention was becoming. In the last few years it has become a matter of who could stay "under budget" more than what we were accomplishing. How are we carrying the message - experience, strength, and hope? Are we making the convention a "showcase for the sober alcoholic" or a "haven for the still suffering individual"? You decide and let us all improve. I know cost is important, but the exposure to the newest of individuals is what will keep this Fellowship alive and growing. Let's give the attendees a chance to experience what we all have been through and help them find their "niche" in service work.

Your Area Officers and Committee Chairs will be attending the four cluster forums planned for 2017. The first

one in hosted by Districts 3, 4, & 5 in Savannah at the end of February. The flyer for the March District 17 (Spanish Cluster Forum) is in this message. If you never have attended one of their Forums, you will enjoy immensely. I am looking forward to my 2nd year as your representative at the General Service Conference and will get your DCMs the Agenda Items as soon as they are published. Early in April the Area will have its Pre-Conference meeting with the DCMs and bring back your input for Conference.

Your Alternate Delegate and/or myself are available upon request to attend your District meetings/functions. At the May assembly you will receive the Ad-hoc Committee report of consolidating all Pre-paid Convention expenses to the Convention budget. You also will be voting on the motion to begin "electronic voting" at election assemblies. I am looking forward to seeing more of you at Assembly.

ALTERNATE DELEGATE / alt_delegate@aageorgia.org

Is Your Voice Heard?

By Rick M.
Area 16 Alternate Delegate

Our most recent Assembly was enjoyable and enlightening to me and I hope it was for you too. Great to see and meet a lot of new folks in the service of their Groups, Districts/Zones, and Area Committees! During the Sunday business meeting we all witnessed one of our theme topics for this year, "Participation - Is Your Voice Heard?" The Ad Hoc committee presented information (their report) on the motion for electronic voting. Following the report, as outlined in our manual, discussion followed on the motion. This was the time we participated and our voices were heard. I'm guessing approximately 15 or so folks from group GSRs, DCMs, and other Area 16 mem-

bers let "their voices be heard" during this time. This is exactly what I believe this theme topic is all about; we let our voices be heard through the "action" of participation in our Area. There were excellent views expressed, questions, and comments made in the motion discussion. All of this activity to bring back to our groups for an informed group conscience and in May of this year, to come back and vote on this motion (again our voices heard).

By the time you read this issue, the Southeast Delegate Get Together will have taken place in Atlanta, February 3rd - 5th. The next activity on the GSSA schedule is the Southeast Cluster Forum hosted by Districts 3, 4, & 5 in Savannah, February 25th. Following the Southeast, the next Cluster Forum will be hosted by District 17 (Spanish) in Atlanta, March

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Page	
1 - 5	Area Officer Articles
2	Self Support Plans (updated)
5	Calendar of Events
6	Birthdays/New Groups/Passing
7	Assembly minutes
14	Wordsearch
15	Hotel Reservation Information

18th; translation to English will be available. I really hope to see all of you at these forums to support and experience the great presentations on this year's themes, like those mentioned in this article. I'm sure the Southeast and **Spanish** Cluster Forums will do a fantastic job. Please come out, bring someone new to these events, and join us for very informative cluster forums! I'm looking forward to our action on another theme topic, "**Leadership; I am Responsible...**", Ernie, our Delegate, will be traveling to Rye,

Continued on Pg 6.

TREASURER / treasurer@aageorgia.org

Keep Contributions Coming

By Rusty L.
Area 16 Treasurer

Well, I survived my first Assembly. It was actually pretty exciting and I really enjoyed presenting our financials to everyone. I want to take the opportunity to thank those of you who gave me feedback during the Assembly weekend, both congratulations and critiques. It's helpful as I attempt to provide you the financial information you want and need.

Area 16 did an **amazing** job with our finances in 2016. As I reported, Total Income was \$268,034.71 and Total Expenses were \$243,621.97 for a Total Profit of \$24,412.74. You told us what you wanted to do via the budget and you responded by providing the contributions to make it all happen. Area 16 AA is simply amazing and I want to thank you for your efforts!!

Your DCMs approved the 2017 budget of \$262,785.73, so I want to encourage you to continue your contributions to GSSA to fund those services for all of us and for all suffering alcoholics in Georgia. I know you can do it.

Additionally, the Augusta Pre-paid Convention was a great success, coming in under budget. With the Macon Pre-paid occurring this year, Athens to follow in 2018, and probably Savannah in 2019, I want you to consider continuing your contributions to fund our State Convention as you have in the past. Let's make our Conventions open and available to all alcoholics in Georgia.

Thanks again for all you do to financially support your Area. You are the financial lifeblood of AA in Georgia.

SECRETARY / secretary@aageorgia.org

Reminders to Inform GSSA

By Joan M.
Area 16 Secretary

We have some great topics to address at our Cluster Forums this year. A subtopic under Growth is Diversity—Outreach and Attraction. I'll start with some examples of Attraction. I think my home group is welcoming. We are a relatively new group. While not all positions are filled, we have a greeter on Tuesday nights. I like to acknowledge everyone that comes into our meeting, whether they are home group members or visitors. I feel much more a part of AA when I'm welcomed at a meeting. My home group includes people of all ages. I try to talk with younger people as well as people my age. Quite some time ago, I was on a rotation that took a meeting into an adolescent treatment center. I always questioned whether I had anything to offer these young people. Many of them were in

grade school or junior high, while I was married and had a job, house, and car. In the end, my answer was always the same—just one alcoholic talking to another alcoholic. It was the Language of the Heart. Today, I try to look for the similarities, not the differences.

When I meet new people at other meetings and AA events, I tell them about my home group and invite them to join us sometime. I've picked up a home group member living in an Assisted Living **Home** and brought them to our meeting. When we have a home-bound member, we take a meeting to them. Consider addressing this topic at your next group conscience meeting. As a group, find new ways to reach more alcoholics and attract diverse members to your groups. These steps are small, but we have to start somewhere.

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) & Prepaid Convention

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*

GRAPEVINE / grapevine@aageorgia.org

Grapevine News

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

The Grow Your Grapevine campaign has come to a close; Area 32, Michigan Central, won with 3,841 Arbor Cards submitted, followed by Area 34, Michigan Western, with 3,169 and Area 86, Ontario Western, with 764. Area 16, Georgia, led the Southeast Region with 81 cards submitted. Area 32 will be featured in a Special Section of the Grapevine magazine this year.

Introducing the Grapevine Subscription App, now you can subscribe to the magazine through the app, access the magazine on your tablet or smartphone monthly, download your issue for offline viewing, archive past issues, get a sample

audio story and a selected video, and Email favorite articles to friends. The App is available for Android and Apple products. The cost is only \$1.99 per month for a 12 month subscription.

Stay tuned for: 4 Seasons of Service with Grapevine and La Vina, beginning March 1st, your story could be selected for a special section about Service in 2018.

Grapevine is always looking for stories, photographs, and illustrations. Please visit

www.aagrapevine.org/share to learn more about how you can participate with Grapevine.

Robert and I look forward to seeing you soon at Cluster Forums and Grapeathons. Thank you for the opportunity to be of service to Area 16.

PI/CPC /
picpc@aageorgia.org

An Exciting Year

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

We are getting ready for another exciting year of PI/CPC service opportunities. We constantly reflect on the fun we have had with the District reps and volunteers. We were involved in a lot of cool things in 2016, and 2017 will not be any different. Firstly, we will be facilitating a booth at two National conferences. The first being the National Association of Black Law Enforcement Conference, being held in Atlanta July 29th-August 3rd. The second conference will be the American Public Health Association Conference, also being held in Atlanta, November 4th-8th. Anyone willing to volunteer for these two events would be greatly appreciated. We had a sign up sheet at **GSSA**, but as always, the more the merrier! We will also be attending all the upcoming Cluster Forums and look forward to seeing what the District and Group reps are doing in their region. The soonest being the SouthEast Cluster Forum in Savannah, Saturday February 25th. We will have a booth, speaking and answering any questions. Not long after that, our Area 16 PI/CPC Co-Chair has been asked to speak at the Unity Weekend in District 16C March 3rd-4th with the message of Rocking ON in Recovery! We hope to see you there. We started this year with our best attendance at our workshops at GSSA and we hope to stay exciting and excited for the service being done in our committee.

(Spanish) Forum on March 18. We are also working on our annual Treatment/Accessibilities Workshop and as always, more will be revealed.

Treatment / Accessibilities treatment@aageorgia.org

It's Official

By Don O., Chair
Christie G. Co-Chair
Area 16 Treatment / Accessibilities Committee

What a great Assembly we had in January! Thanks to everyone who came and took part in our workshops. We had a very busy and productive weekend and a lot is happening with our committee.. Christie and I were both accepted by the Georgia State Service Assembly as your new Chair and Co-chair and it is an honor and very humbling to stand before the Assembly and receive approval. Thank you all very much for the honor.

The Assembly voted to change the name of our committee from Treatment/Special Needs and Accessibilities to Treatment/Accessibilities as has already

been done at GSO. Our goal will be to make meetings accessible to anyone one seeking our way of life.

Our hope this year is to focus on improving our communication with other committee members and working very closely with our **Bridge** The Gap program to really enhance what we are already doing with it. It is such a valuable tool for our fellowship to have at it's disposal. It only requires a short term commitment and your experience as a sober member of Alcoholics Anonymous is all you need to qualify to help us! Please see talk to the treatment rep in your group or district. We are looking forward to our first Cluster Forum of the year in Savannah on Sat. Feb 25 and the second of the year The District 17

ARCHIVES / archives@aageorgia.org

Archives Committee Report

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

We had one of the most interesting Archives Committee meetings that I have helped lead. A request was made to come up with a procedure to identify how we can purge materials from the Georgia Archives that are not unique or relevant to our mission. We only have so much room. Our Archives room should not be considered to be a dumping ground for materials that well-intentioned AA members simply don't wish to keep.

About 2,000 cassette tapes have been donated within the last six months.

The announcement was made asking us to provide a history of the Atlanta Roundup. Much to our surprise, we had someone in attendance that attended the very first Roundup in July of 1975. He has since been interviewed.

Tapes are being converted into MP3

files at the rate of about 15 a week by the new part-time employee.

The position of Archivist at the GSSA was discussed. We believe such a position could be of great long-term assistance to the Georgia State Archives. Just as is suggested in the GSO Archives Manual, this position would have a longer term than the 2 year term of Archives Chair, which would still exist to head the Archives Committee and assist the Archivist. We believe the Archivist would be relatively local to the Macon area. Of course, the entire subject will remain only a theory until such an Archivist steps forward to desire such a position.

The number of responses we received to our Archives Questionnaire were few. Of the forty requests to other Areas, we received only six responses. But the responses we did receive were **helpful**. The distinction between an Archivist and an Archives Chair was included within the replies.

FROM YOUR WEBMASTER

I am filled with gratitude at the opportunity to serve as the Webmaster for the web committee. The task, at first, seems quite formidable when thinking of all the ways in which we carry the message online, but relief has come quickly from the method of keeping it simple and seeking balancing in my life and all things. Working in the IT Industry as a web and data developer for ten years, I can now help with a purpose of working with other alcoholics. Part of the information vital to carrying the **message** in the 21st century is on the web. The information has a public focus, groomed by all of the committees. The central focus is, of course, Anonymity—As anonymity is the “spiritual foundation of all our Traditions,” we practice anonymity on public websites at all times. (GSO Guidelines on “AA TRADITIONS AND THE INTERNET”). The guidelines also focus on the principles of *Attraction not promotion, Self-support, no affiliation, *and *non endorsement*. Principles I can practice actively during this appointment. Principles I started to learn from going to the World Convention in Atlanta when I was 66 days sober and meeting so many people enthusiastic about sobriety. Shortly after, I came to my first GSSA, joined a home group, and found service there. I am enthusiastic that my professional skillset and passion for information on the web will be utilized in service, fitting into the mold of an experienced legacy of service.

Let me know if I need to change anything.

— Jonathan W., Area 16 Webmaster

COMMUNICATIONS / communications@aageorgia.org

Carrying The Message

By Ron G., Chair
Area 16 Communications Committee

We now have a Webmaster to lead our web activities. Please welcome Jonathan W to his new service position and look for his article in this issue of The Georgia Message.

Our Area communications has two purposes: (1) to facilitate carrying the message of AA to those seeking recovery from their alcoholism - those outside and inside AA, and (2) to help assure decision making within Area 16 is based upon an informed group conscience.

What are the communications vehicles Area 16 uses to facilitate carrying our message to those seeking recovery? The main communication tool is our meeting list of all groups within Area 16 – meeting times, meeting locations, meeting types, and directions. Our find a meeting tool on the aageorgia.org website has approximately 100 actual searches for meetings every day – more than 3,000 per month and 36,000

per year.

The group directory information includes contact information – name, address, and phone number for every group within the Area. This information is used by our office manager, the Central Offices throughout the Area, your Area Committee Chairs to direct inquiries from those seeking AA, and those within the fellowship seeking information or a contact. Help us keep the information on meetings and groups accurate and **current** by updating with the Area Office either by phone, email or website.

The aageorgia.org website facilitates ordering literature – books and pamphlets to help carry the AA message of **hope** and recovery. Finally, The Georgia Message is a source of information about upcoming events: Cluster Forums, Assemblies, Pre-paid Convention, local Roundups and Meetings where the message of recovery is available.

CORRECTIONS / corrections@aageorgia.org

Experience Strength and Hope

By Cathy B., Chair
Ken P., Co-Chair
Area 16 Corrections Committee

Ken and I would like to thank Area 16 for our approval to serve as your Co-Chair and Chair for Corrections. We are honored to be of service. The experience strength and hope we have gained from our predecessors will be a good foundation for us. Tim E., Jim T. and Harold W. have been amazing examples for us. And so we begin.

The morning and evening workshops at the January Assembly were very well attended, with 46 people signing in. Both Frank S. and Ken P. did an awesome job presenting at our evening workshop. They shared how they got involved in corrections, the different facilities they go into, and their experience. Their passion for corrections was apparent. Frank,

of course, brought a lot of "stuff", as he calls it. He had on hand many of the handouts he uses during the meetings, and there was plenty for all to take with us. At the upcoming April Assembly, both Jim T. and David M. have graciously agreed to present, and we look forward to hearing them. I encourage everyone to attend.

The January Certification training went well. At the training, I was informed that badge processing and the renewal of badges will be changing to certain GDC Regional locations. Hopefully it will make it easier and quicker for everyone to get their badges. As soon as I get more information, I will post on GSSA website. The next Certification training will be Saturday May 27th, from 8am to noon. There is no charge for this training and is **open** to all AA members. The training will be held at our State Office in Macon. We look forward to seeing you there.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

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

March 3-4	Unity Weekend 16C & 16D Lawrenceville
March 10-12	Flint River Round Up Albany
March 10-12	G.A.L.S. Toccoa
March 23-26	72nd Atlanta Men's Workshop Rockeagle
March 18	District 17 Forum (Espanol) Atlanta
April 8	DCM Pre-Conference Meeting Macon/Marriott 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
April 23-29	67th General Service Conference New York
May 7	Metro Service Breakfast NABA / Atlanta

The deadline for the articles for the message for May and June is April 1st. There is no subscription fee for this newsletter, however all contributions are appreciated.

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

Birthday Contributions

District 2, Zone A

Alamo Group

Donald B. – December 20, 2012

District 3, Zone D

12 & 12 Group

Kathleen H. – January 14, 2001

District 5, Zone A

Delia S.

New Horizons Group

Ernie – January 19, 1989

Pembroke Group

Jeanne McC. – January 9, 1980

District 5, Zone B

Frank S. – October 28, 1990

District 6

College Step Study Group

Roger H. – November 7, 2015

District 7, Zone A

New Beginnings Group

Gladys H. – 26 Years

District 7, Zone B

Sisters In Sobriety Group

Betty H. – September 29, 2005

District 8

I Am Responsible Group

Ken P. – September 6, 2006

District 11, Zone B

12 Step Sisters Group

November 2, 2000

District 13, Zone A

Clean Air Group

Bill M. – December 15, 1993

District 13, Zone H

5th Tradition Group

Jenine M. – February 28, 2008

District 14, Zone B

Cartersville Study Group

Ann K. – January 1, 1995

District 16, Zone C

First Things First Group

Julia K – October 14, 2008

For The Fun Of It Group

Kathryn W. – November 8, 1986

District 16, Zone D

Progress Not Perfection Group

Kathy B. – January 24, 1989

District 17

25 plus 18 Anniversary

Sobriedad Latina Group

David T. – December 24, 2003

Things We Cannot Change

Southside Group

Dessie J

Sobriety Date – May 10, 1971

Passed – January 30, 2017

Wayne County Group

Dessie J

Sobriety Date – December 4, 1973

Passed – December 18, 2017

Continued—Alt Delegate Page 1

New York for the General Service Conference ,April 23rd – 29th . 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 of A.A. as a whole.” So, before Ernie goes, we’ll be called upon to discuss Conference topics and provide viewpoints to him from our Group/District level and hence, “Our Voices” from Area 16, Georgia. Please bring these viewpoints to your District and Zone meetings so your DCM will have these for the DCM Pre-Conference Meeting on April 8th at the Macon Marriott. The discussion topics will have been distributed to the DCMs in early February.

Additionally, don’t forget to sign up for the 64th Pre-paid Convention in Macon, Oct. 12th -15th , being held in the Macon Marriott City Center. As was presented to us at the last assembly, 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.

I look forward to meeting many of you at our GSSA activities, May Assembly, and to working together at every level in “Supporting Our Future”.

HOW TO CONTACT TRUSTED SERVANTS

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

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

The Georgia Message of AA is published by Area 16.

CONTACT:

P.O. Box 7325, Macon, GA 31209 or gssa@aageorgia.org.

Editor: Jenine M.

PRINT AND DELIVERY: Tamera P.

CONTACT: editor@aageorgia.org

THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA / PAGE 7

Georgia Area Assembly Business Meeting Minutes Pending Approval at May, 2017 Business Meeting Sunday, January 22, 2017

DELEGATE'S REPORT-Ernie M

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 as the Panel 66 Delegate for the 67th General Conference to be held in New York in April 2017.

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 2017 let us look back for a moment at the accomplishments of this past year. Area 16 held 4 Cluster Forums – Southwest in Albany, West Central in Perry, Northeast in Buford, and Metro in Atlanta. All were well attended and the presentations were excellent. Our 63rd State Convention was held in Augusta, coming in under budget. You will receive their report later this morning.

In December 2016, the Alternate Delegate, myself, and others from Georgia had the opportunity to attend the Southeast Regional Forum in Orlando, Florida. From Friday evening through Sunday morning there were presentations from the General Service and Corporate Boards. There were presentations from current and past Delegates, Grapevine Board and our AA Trustee-at-Large. There also were numerous "General Sharing Sessions" with questions asked and answered. I had the privilege of being the moderator for the Saturday night workshop – A.A. Corrections.

As always with the beginning of each year we say goodbye to some of our Area Officers and Committee Chairpersons. Many thanks and kudos go out to our Departing Secretary – Debi K., and Treasurer – Diane M. I would like to welcome our New Area Secretary – Joan M., and New Area Treasurer – Rusty L. You will be receiving a report from these new officers later this morning.

Our Area appreciation also goes out to Tim E. – Corrections Committee Chairperson and John L., Treatment and Special Needs Committee Chairperson. These individuals have given four (4) years of devoted service to Alcoholic Anonymous in Area 16. I also have received the resignation of our Communications Co-Chairperson – Gary J. The Area will miss his services. These people deserve special thanks from Area 16. Later this morning you will be asked to approve the appointment of a new Chairperson and Co-Chairperson of the Corrections Committee and Treatment Special Needs Committee. Please support them as you have their predecessors. Currently Area 16 is searching for a "Web Master" and new Co-Chair for the Communications Committee. If you may be interested in either of these positions, please contact Ron G., our Communications Committee Chairperson.

As always, Area 16's appreciation goes out to the tireless efforts of our Area Office Manager Tamara. Also, attending her first Assembly is our newest part time employee in the Area Office - Fran. Please make her feel welcome as you see her today.

AAWS Reports:

Public Information: Tracking for video "Doors" showed that it aired over 80,000 times in the US & Canada with 588 million audience impressions. The English and French versions of the PSA "Tengo Esperanza" are scheduled to be distributed in Jan 2017.

Publishing: Through September 30th gross sales were \$10,192,281 or \$58,868 ahead of budget.

**Total eBook sales through September are \$168,997 with 42,937 units. The Hebrew, Polish, and Thai re-translations are continuing. The Navajo project is in its final recordings and final review.

** The Board approved bundling the 75th anniversary facsimile first edition *Big Book* with *Pass It On, Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers*, and *Alcoholic Anonymous Comes of Age* as special holiday gift set at \$30/set. It will be offered for sale through Jan 31, 2017. Order

on line if interested.

CONFERENCE: The committee agreed to forward the final report from the subcommittee on electronic voting at Conference to the 2017 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions with the recommendation that the Conference move forward using electronic voting for all Conference voting, with the exception of elections for regional trustee and trustee-at-large.

The committee received a report from the GM on the financial implications of moving the 2018 Conference back to New York City and agreed to that change of venue.

ARCHIVES: The committee agreed to forward to the 2017 Conference Committee on Archives the proposal for a new AAWS book *Unity in Action: Bill W's General Conference Talks, 1951-1970* (working title) for consideration.

TRUSTEES' CORRECTION COMMITTEE: Reported that the first National Corrections Conference will be held in November 2017, hosted by Area 38, Eastern Missouri and the location to rotate annually.

FINANCIALS:

GSO:

At the end of 9 months, revenues were approximately \$772,000 (6.75%) greater than budgeted while total operating expenses were \$ 690,000 under budget.

Contributions were approximately \$618,000 greater than budget and \$581,000 greater than same period in 2015.

Net profit was \$800,145 compared with a budgeted loss of \$662,000.

** On-line sales make up 58.22% of all Sales. Since the actual results are so much more positive than 2016 budget, the chair gave the following "big picture" to clarify:

13% increase in 7 th Tradition	620,000
2% increase in literature profits	150,000
7% decrease in employee costs as open positions due to retirements not filled	490,000
4% decrease in operating other expenses	<u>200,000</u>
Nine-month actual profit	800,000

GRAPEVINE:

Combined average circulation was 77,900 compared with last year's average of 77,700. Magazine income was \$ 12,751 greater than budgeted with direct costs of \$ 49,655 less. Gross profit from the magazine of \$ 1,083,973 is \$ 11,516 more than last year and \$ 62,406 greater than budgeted. Other publishing income of \$ 501,291 is \$ 60,985 greater than budget. In summary, the 2016 profit thus far is significantly improved due to magazine circulation increasing over budget and actual expenditures being less than budgeted.

*La Vina Magazine had a shortfall of \$108,828 which was \$4,900 less than budgeted, but \$9,155 greater than this time last year. Average circulation was 10,340 which is 180 more than budgeted and 30 greater than last year.

Preliminary information is that for the full year 2016 the Grapevine is forecast to have a profit of \$148,139, but that 2017 will result in a loss of \$141,250 with larger losses going forward.

AREA 16'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO GSO:

Thru the end of September 2016, 54.56% of Georgia's groups contributed to GSO as compared to 52.5% in 2015. Area 16 has contributed \$109,716.42 thru the end of September to GSO. If any DCM would like to see the list from his/her District, please feel free to see either myself or the Alternate Delegate for that information. Or you may email either of us and we will forward your district information to you.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS - That the Trustees' Committee of Literature consider development of A. A. Literature providing information and guidance to A.A. groups regarding matters of personal conduct, safety and the protection of our members. It was recommended that the service material document of Safety presented by G.S.O. staff be approved and sent for legal review, with final edit-

THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA / PAGE 8

ing provided by Publishing. It was also that Publishing develop, with input from staff, a Safety card, and that it be brought back to the Board to review. This matter is still pending and we may see some development at Conference regarding this matter.

Area 16 has 17 Districts, 50 DCMs, 779 groups and approximately 19,100 members. Your group contributions fund the services that the Area provides. In November 2016, we had the DCM planning meeting for the year 2017. The DCMs approved the budget for 2017 with some recommended changes by the Budget Committee. It was decided to remain with four Cluster Forums as budget did not seem to allow expansion back to the eight Cluster Forums. Your Alternate Delegate will go over the schedule later this morning in his report.

In April 2017, the Area will be having its pre-conference meeting with the DCMs in preparation for the 67th 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 share their respective committee assignments with the groups in their Districts and bring back your wishes 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 have our Area Secretary send the DCMs their respective committee agenda items.

As you heard in yesterday afternoon presentations, Area 16 (Georgia) and Area 1 (Alabama & North Florida), will be hosting the Southern States Alcoholic Anonymous Service Assembly IV (SSAASA) in Atlanta, November 10-12th. 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.

Today you will receive the Ad-hoc Committee report on "electronic voting". Please carry this information back to your home groups for their input and be prepared to vote in May 2017.

The Trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment & Special Needs changed the name of the Committee to Treatment/Accessibilities with the approval of the 66th General Conference. Since this is a name change and does not change the function or scope of the Committee, I would like to have the Assembly make a motion to change the name of our Treatment/Special Needs Committee to Treatment/Accessibilities. Per our Service Manual, pg. 13, the Assembly may make a motion to changes in "committees and non-policy decisions" supported by the will of the Assembly and can be updated regularly.

Also at your May Assembly, the Area will accept nominations for our Panel 68 Delegate to the General Service Conference in 2018 either by roll call of the current DCMs or nomination by a standing GSR/Alternate GSR. Please review the Georgia Service Manual for the nomination criteria and procedures. Remember that any candidate wishing to stand for either Delegate or Alternate Delegate, must stand for Delegate and after that election, the Alternate Delegate will be elected/chosen from the remaining candidates. Again, in 2017, 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 if we are working with another alcoholic. Fellowship alone will not guarantee my sobriety. I must 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". 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. Your input is a valuable tool to plan for better assemblies in the future. Our 2017, the 67th General Service Conference will be held in Rye, New York, April 23-29, 2017. I am very excited to represent Area 16. 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.

Also at the 67th General Conference the Southeast Delegates will be electing a new Southeast Delegate for the next four years. Chet P., our current Southeast Delegate, has done an excellent job representing us. Our own Tom H., (Past Panel 62 Delegate, and currently our Office Committee Chairperson) has been nominated by Area 16, and I will support that nomination at the Conference. In preparation for the May Assembly, I have asked our current Trustee-at-Large/U.S. Bob W. to be our guest. He will not only share his story with us Saturday evening, but will also do a presentation on Saturday afternoon regarding his duty position/function and travel as our Trustee-at-Large.

Again, many thanks for allowing me to represent Area 16. Questions?????

Recognition of Past Officers-Rebecca T—Patty L., Past Delegate, Past Secretary; David M., Past Delegate, Past Treasurer

Approval of Minutes from January Business Meeting—Rebecca T
Show of hands
No corrections or amendments
All in favor

63rd GA Prepaid Convention Final Report (Augusta)—Jimmy H, Prepaid Chair
Date—October 20-23, 2016
Theme—Our Spiritual Way of Life

I'm thankful and appreciative for all the people from the states of Georgia and South Carolina for coming and supporting us in Augusta. Special thanks to our Alternate Delegate Rick M and then Treasurer Diane M for their input; thanks to Districts 8 and 9 for participating.

Recognition and thanks to Prepaid Convention Chairs and Co-Chairs

Chairperson and Planning Committee Chair—Jimmy H
Convention Co-Chair—Fran M
Secretary—Eric/Jodi
Treasurer—Charlie
Registration Chair—Ryan W
Registration Co-Chair—Chuck L
Speaker Selection Chair—Ted E
Speaker Coordinator—Bill R
Hospitality Chair—Karen L
Greeter Chair—Judy S
Voices of the Convention—Jimmy H, Don B, and David S
Entertainment—Keeler and George C
Program Committee Chair—Frank W

Attendance

953 people registered
1120 people at the Saturday night speaker meeting
Things we did well
Computer sign-in, printed nametags, registration booth
Schedule of events in packet
Volunteers and greeters

THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA / PAGE 9

Smiled
Prayed

All Prepaid sponsored events were self-supporting (poker bikers donated back to us almost \$500.00 for the hospitality room)
Reached out to the community to solicit their help in support our Convention and had 50 volunteers on call every day to help us out
Came in \$5000.00 under budget

Things we could have done better

Registration open longer
Different email platforms/more control online
Online registration forms matching the flyer
"Reserved" signage for Speaker seating
Announcements to turn off cell phones and electronic devices

64th GA Prepaid Convention Report (Macon)—Tracy M, Prepaid Chair

Thank you, Tamara for your service to the Prepaid Committee.
Also thanks to Rick, Ernie, and Diane (past Treasurer). Looking forward to working with Rusty our incoming Treasurer.
I was reminded at the Prepaid Planning Meeting that the Prepaid Convention is about Service.

Facilities—Contract signed and deposit made in 2015

Room rates \$120.00/night plus tax

Coffee at \$22.00/gallon

Exhibition Hall A secured for speaker meetings, accommodating 1100-1700 people

Prepaid Co-Chair—Mike Thompson who will also be the "Voice"

Entertainment—Saturday night dance

Local musicians in our hospitality room-Room 306

Other events—Kayaking , Golf Tournament on Saturday

Outreach committee—Designed T-shirts for our volunteers

Registration Committee and Volunteers--Already hard at work. We kicked off registration at the Augusta Convention. Thank you, Jimmy for a great place to do our registration. We had 202 people register at the Augusta Convention. Over this weekend we have had 70 more registrations.

Outreach Committee—Have designed T-shirts for our volunteers. We have used a Facebook account to keep committees informed between planning meetings which is working well. We have a tri-fold board for our Alternate Delegate, Rick to take around with him to AA events.

Hospitality—All slots are filled for groups to come in and provide food. Water, coffee, snacks and soft drinks will be provided as well as groups coming in at different times providing full food, so you will not have to go out to eat unless you want to. Every couple of hours the full food will change (Thursday thru Sunday.)

Treasurer—Our treasurer has followed the guidelines and has stayed in contact initially with Diane our Past Treasurer, and is now working with Rusty our current Treasurer as we move forward.

Speakers—Our Speakers Program Committee has done a great job. We have really good speakers for our convention.

Program—The draft is done. Instead of a speaker dinner we opted for our speakers to meet and greet and mingle in the hospitality room and fellowship there. Their host will take them to dinner, but mainly have our fellowship in the hospitality room where everyone can attend.

Al-Anon—Our liaison has done a great job. A great speaker is lined up and Al-Ateen activities lined up as well as meetings.

Thanks to everyone. We are ready to pull out all the stops and roll into 2017 and share a great experience with you. Look forward to seeing you there.

AREA OFFICER REPORTS

Alternate Delegate—Rick M

Good morning everyone. My name is Rick and I'm an Alcoholic. It's an honor and a privilege to serve as your Alternate Delegate.

What I've been up to as your Alternate Delegate—I went to the SE Regional Forum, where Ernie and I were asked to host the Corrections Committee Meeting along with the discussion. The biggest thing I took away from the Forum was said by one of our Trustees about service. We all come here and talk about service. What he said is that "We need to take this back to our home groups and talk about all the enthusiasm about service." We need to get more people involved by talking about service in our home groups.

In 2016 Cluster Forums were held in the Southwest, West Central, Northeast, and Metro Atlanta

Results from these Cluster Forum

Over 100 people in attendance at each one

Over 70% of those attending were first timers at the Cluster Forums

Over 280 people across the state that attended were exposed to service for the first time

Great job to all who hosted and attended and got somebody there for their first time

Cluster Forum Topics for 2017

Supporting Our Future

Growth

Participation

Contributions

2017 Upcoming Cluster Forums

Feb 25th Southeast Cluster Forum

First Presbyterian Church

520 Washington Ave

Savannah, GA 31405

Mar 18th Spanish Cluster Forum hosted by District 17

Grupo Sobriedad Latina

3609 Shallowford Rd., Suite 400

Atlanta, GA 30340

June East Central Cluster Forum

Districts 8, 9, 12A, and 12B

Northwest Cluster Forum

Other Events

Jan 28th

Corrections Certification Training in Macon

Feb 3rd-5th

Southeast Delegate Get-Together

Apr 8th

DCM Pre-Conference Meeting

11AM to 3PM in Macon

Pre-Conference material to be emailed out

mid-February

Apr 23rd-29th

General Service Conference

Rye, N.Y.

May 19th-21st

GSSA

Macon, GA

Secretary—Joan M

Attendance at January Assembly

DCMs	43
Alternate DCMs	22
District Secretary/Treasurer	10
GSR	232
Alternate GSR	61
Group Secretary/Treasurer	15
GV Reps	10
Treatment Facilities Reps	5
Corrections Facilities Reps	6
Communications	2
PI/CPC Reps	8
Archives Reps	4
Members at Large	43
TOTAL	461

Secretaries—Please keep your group information updated. Exist-

THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA / PAGE 10

ing Group Meeting Change Forms, Existing Group Trusted Servants Updates, and New Group Registration Forms can be found on the aageorgia.org homepage under the "Find a Meeting" tab

DCMs, District and Zone Secretaries—Please send your District/Zone Minutes to districtminutes@aageorgia.org. This information can be found on our website, aageorgia.org. Click Service>Area 16 Office Committee>Secretary. The link will be on the left-hand side

DCMs—GSSA's preferred form of communication with you is thru your district email box which is accessible at district@aageorgia.org. From our website, choose the "Service" tab, then "Service" again. "GSSA e-mail boxes" will be on the left side of the page. Click the link below it to get to the login page where it will ask for your email address (district@aageorgia.org), and your password.

Treasurer—Rusty L

My name is Rusty Lavelly, I am an Alcoholic. I want to thank you again for allowing me to be of service as your Area Treasurer. Dianne did an amazing job over the last two years updating our accounting and bookkeeping. She has an amazing financial mind, and was able to bring us into the 21st Century as far as our bookkeeping goes. Not that we were doing a bad job, we needed better organization of our books, and using QuickBooks, she has really done a fantastic job working with Tamara to get that done. I want to thank her again. She will stay on the Budget and Finance Committee as the Past Treasurer does so she can help transition further as we continue to add inventory into QuickBooks and other things. She did an amazing job for us as Treasurer. I will use her as a resource over the next couple of years as we continue to move forward.

Having said that, I am simplistic in a lot of ways, so my report will be a lot more simplistic than hers were. I'm not an Accountant by training, but I have a lot of financial information and education, but I like big numbers, not the little numbers. The details are certainly available when I give you the reports. If you want more detail on what the numbers mean, where they come from, your DCMs all have the Balance Sheets, and Profit and Loss Statements for both GSSA and the Prepaid Convention Accounts. I am always available at treasurer@aageorgia.org to answer any questions for you. Don't hesitate to ask if you don't understand something. If you want more information we can certainly get it to you.

Ordinary Income: All collections-for 2016, almost \$5500 above budget

Literature Sales: Normal literature sales are about \$92,000. We sold \$5542 more in literature than budgeted

Interest/Other Income: Interest on prudent reserve accounts

Total Income: \$11,139 higher than budgeted. It is not our income-it's what we did in-excess of budget

All Committees spent less than budget in 2016 except Miscellaneous. It is higher because it includes the extra \$4000 this body approved to send to GSO to support the Conference. Miscellaneous is traditionally higher because that is where we put the extra contribution to GSO.

Assembly: We saved almost \$5600 in Assembly costs last year
Operations: Macon Office expenses. This includes wages, taxes, and all the expenses that go into operating that office. We were in-excess of budget last year by \$1854 which made up of small expenses such as paper and office supplies. Historically, office expenses will exceed the budget by a little bit of money. This is not unexpected

Literature: This is what we purchased-actual literature plus the cost of shipping. We were better on Literature expenses by \$1303

Total Income: Actual-\$268,035; budget-\$256895; difference-\$11,140

Total Expenses: Actual-\$243,622; budget-\$258,168; difference-(\$14,546) which is a savings

For 2016, GSSA showed a net profit of \$24,413. Fantastic Job

One note of caution. Breaking down the profit of \$24,413, \$8067 was from operations (increase in collections and decrease in expenses), and \$16,346 was from literature sales. We have almost double literature sales in excess than we did in operations excess. Here is the caution: \$10,700 came from the sale of the "We Share It" book. This should not be something we expect in the future. The costs for the "We Share It" book have already been covered. Every "We Share It" book we sell now is profit.

The 9.5 Months of Operating Expense is not accurate. Money from our checking account needs to be transferred (from end of 2016) to our reserve account. We are probably in the 10 month or higher range.

Correction to slide: Budget s/b \$42,000; Difference s/b \$6453
Our 3 year rolling average is slightly less than our budget-\$41,136 vs. \$42,000

Budget less the actual is \$6453. Augusta came in under budget 2.86 (number of conventions per reserve) This is less than last year due to a decrease in Prepaid contributions

OLD BUSINESS

Ad hoc report on Electronic Voting

MOTION: "That Area 16 adopt electronic voting procedures for elections"

In order to provide a recommendation to Area 16 regarding the pending Motion, the Ad Hoc Committee considered the following items: (1) whether electronic voting adheres to the twelve traditions; (2) which areas of the service manual would be impacted; (3) practical considerations; (4) cost effectiveness of purchasing or renting devices; (5) Technology support and improvements; and (6) other Area's experience.

The Ad Hoc Committee unanimously agreed that voting electronically does not violate the twelve traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous and identified three pages in the Georgia service manual which would need to be updated: (a) Page 29- Delegate and Alternate Delegate; (b) Page 30 - Third Legacy Procedure; (c) Page 32 - State Secretary.

The committee focused much of its attention on the practical considerations of electronic voting including the type of products available, whether the devices would work at the conference center, verifying accuracy, and ensuring all GSR's have access to devices.

To ensure all GSR's who attend assembly have access to electronic voting, the committee agreed that although certain companies provide this service using cell phones, electronic voting through cell phone is not feasible for Area 16 due to the fact that not all GSR's will have a cell phone capable of electronic voting and tracking the number of voters and maintaining accuracy will be difficult. As a result, the remainder of the review focused only upon electronic voting using a third-party device.

Early on in this process the committee learned that should Area 16 purchase an electronic voting system, in an addition to an increased cost per unit, the Area would not have access to continuing technical support. As a result, the committee unanimously agreed the electronic devices should be rented rather than purchased and focused its research on renting electronic voting devices.

In order to compare the devices, a matrix was prepared setting forth the cost per unit, whether the quote required additional fixed costs (e.g. for software), the type of technical support offered, the

THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA / PAGE 11

hardware required, whether a product demonstration was available and how the product ensures accuracy. The committee compared six vendors and found four viable vendors. Each of these vendors will provide online training, trial or rehearsal testing, and testing in our meeting space. One vendor insisted on a live remote technical administrator. The cost of utilizing electronic voting appears to be between \$1,500.00 - \$2,000.00 annually.

Currently, over 500 members attend G.S.S.A., of which 300-325 vote; put into perspective the cost of the electronic voting devices is approximately \$5.00 per voter (\$3.00 per attendee). Due to the instantaneous recording of votes these products offer, the electronic voting system has the ability to take a two (2) hour voting process down to about 30 minutes, perhaps less. This equals approximately 750 hours of time saved by AA trusted servants who could use that time in potential service to the suffering alcoholic.

The committee asked our Area Delegate, Ernie M., to reach out to other Areas for any experience they may have with electronic voting. Over 30 responses were received, however not a single area stated they were using electronic voting. One said they had considered it but rejected the idea due to costs and another said they were currently considering it. Although most replied with a simple "no", several delegates included background information. Notably, many areas have far smaller attendance at their respective assemblies than we see in Area 16.

Based on the above, the committee recommends passing the pending Motion. However, the committee unanimously agreed that the manual voting process should remain in the service manual in the event of an electronic voting failure.

Should the current motion pass, in order to develop the specific wording of the electronic voting procedure, the committee recommends tasking the Communications Committee with choosing a vendor and setting forth the exact technical requirements necessary for electronic voting. To facilitate a seamless transition, the current committee will turn over its extensive research to the communications committee.

Should the current motion pass, to control costs and ensure all devices are returned, the committee recommends adopting a procedure wherein the distribution of devices is set forth. For example, any new procedure in the service manual regarding electronic voting, might include a procedure wherein DCM's retrieve and distribute the devices and are then responsible for the return of all devices to the Communications Committee.

In Service,
Robert M., Ken J., Dick D., and Missy M.

Open for discussion

Chris, GSR, 10D, Primary Purpose: A comment about most people don't have a cell phone. On a recent 12th step call a homeless guy went over to the bushes and grabbed a paper bag. We thought it was a bottle. We asked him "Is that your bottle?" He said "No, it's my cell phone." The guy had nothing, but he had a cell phone.

Ken, Alt DCM, 13H: Given the fact that our Delegate reported today that our General Service Conference voted against doing electronic voting for their trusted servants, I would like to hear from the Delegate the background on why that decision was made because for me if the GSC is not willing to elect the Trustees etc. buy electronic voting, maybe we should take what they are doing. I would like to hear the background on that.

Ernie M., Delegate—Basically the reason GSO went to the electronic voting was to save time on Yes or No Conference Agenda Items. 100 people sitting there can press a button yes or no and it will come up immediately on the screen. As far as sticking with the

non-electronic voting for Candidates is because there are so few votes cast, roughly 25-30 votes vs. 300 votes we have here.

Tom H., Office Committee Chairperson—A little education for the body, the total number of votes at Conference is roughly 132-135 members. That's everybody when they all get together and vote on Yes or No items—Advisory Actions. For a Regional election, such as Trustee, like Ernie said, maybe 25-30 people vote. When they do the At-Large for US or Canada, 80 or so vote. A lot less numbers than we have. I am not trying to lead the Body one way or the other, but a lot less than 260ish GSRs when we vote on elections here.

John, GSR, 13G—Two clarification questions. The first is on cost. You said \$1600-\$2000 annually. Would that cover voting at all three GSSA assemblies here for a calendar year? The second is about the type of device. It sounds like it's a wireless handheld device that each of us GSRs would hold at our seats. Not like a voting machine where we would line up sequentially at a kiosk or something like that.

Missy—With regard to the cost, it is \$1500-\$2000 annually, and that would be only at the assembly where we vote on the trusted servants positions. It would not be for all three, just the one. (holds up a device with 5 buttons, on a lanyard, so people could have it around their neck) The devices could be distributed to DCMs, who would then distribute them to the GSRs who could sit in their chair and just push the button. These devices have the capability of putting each vote on the screen. Ken actually tested some.

Ken—I tested four devices. The devices actually have what looks like a USB stick that is really the wireless device that these communicate with. It doesn't communicate with the wireless on the computer itself. During my testing, I could see where it was registering the votes, and it happens almost instantaneously. Also, as far as distance goes, if a device was sitting up at the podium, there would be no problem with it communicating. Worked just fine. They interface with PowerPoint.

Tom, DCM, 16D—We are only using these devices for the vote for Officers each year. Correct?

Missy—Yes, that is correct

Chris, GSR, 16B, Sunrise Group—Will there be enough buttons on the device to correspond with the number of candidates we are voting on?

Missy—Part of the research included looking at the different companies and seeing what types of devices they have. Basically, they can be any size to meet our needs. Devices vary with the number of buttons on them.

Tom, 2B, Abbeville —On projected costs: were there any 5 year projections on rentals, loss, or damage to the devices? A reference was made that the DCMs would collect the votes from each District. If that's the case, would it not be simpler for the DCMs to record their votes to the Committee and not have the cost of the electronic devices? If the DCMs and the GSRs work together you could have a faster more efficient vote. Electronic voting is fine but there are things like manual changes and the devices. My biggest concern is cost. What is the reliability in consistency and pricing we are currently receiving from the vendors?

Missy—In terms of consistency we did narrow it down to that range \$1500-\$2000 annually over a 5-year projection that would require us to look at each contract and see what each contract term is—1, 2, 3 years etc. That is one of the reasons why we recommended for it to go back to the Communications Committee to look at all those items. There was no consideration given to having the DCMs record and submit the votes of their GSRs. We did

THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA / PAGE 12

discuss how to keep the devices from not being returned. 1) We discussed not giving them to the GSRs directly 2) Give the DCMs the number of devices corresponding with the number of eligible voting GSRs or Alt GSRs in their district; collect same number of devices back from the DCMs

As far as with the DCM recording all the votes for the GSRs, there is a lot of room for error. When you press a button on the device, that's it for that cycle. There would be no opportunity for the device to be clicked more than once.

Ken—Some of the research I did is that you can actually change your vote, but there is a particular process you have to go thru with that. The vendor would be able to give us more details depending on what the equipment is. And there is a time frame in there too. You can set it up to say we are accepting votes for 10 minutes and that's it. If you haven't voted in 10 minutes, it's closed. But somewhere down there you could actually change your vote.

Jack, GSR, 15B, Blue Ridge Group—If I push the button is it going to show up on the screen at the same time? And if so, wouldn't that influence the vote?

Ken—It's possible to have a rolling total, but in order to not influence the vote, you would set it up to where after a given amount of time you cut off voting, then post the totals. That would be the recommendation.

Rebecca—Our experience at Conference is not to have a rolling total, but have an allotted amount of time to vote, then have the totals posted. The chair of the meeting that is doing the question says "The voting is open" and then they wait maybe a minute at the most, then say "The voting is closing now...5,4,3,2,1." There is a pause; then the grand total would come up. That is probably how we would set it up.

Robin W, 13A Chapter 3 Group—Is each device being tracked? If I make a vote does it come back and say: "I'm a GSR from such and such group in this particular zone and this is my vote?"

Missy—No, we would only be tracking the number of devices given to each DCM so we get all the devices back. We do not know how a GSR votes on a particular item.

Cecil, Tybee Island Group—Remember our founders said: "Let's not louse this thing up. Let's keep it simple"

Kay, 16A, Sautee group—Does the device just have a,b,c,d...and you have to look somewhere else for which person corresponds to which letter/number?

Missy—Yes, the device just has numbers or letters and you look at a screen in the front of the room to see which candidate corresponds to which number/letter.

Ken—You can change a vote, and there is a particular process for that which would have to be explained by the vendor whose device we rent.

Colleen, Alt GSR, 7B, Warner Robbins Young Peoples Group—If the device needs upgrades or we need more options for the device, would that be covered in the annual cost?

Missy—From preliminary research, yes. The upgrades are part of what we are paying for. That would be in each contract and we would need to do our due diligence.

Ken—When renting, and technology changes, we rent based on what the current technology is.

Chris, 16B, Sunrise Group—Will we be able to get the equipment with the correct number of buttons for the number of candidates we are voting on?

Ken—We know 4 months in advance how many candidates we will be voting on, so when we contract with the vendor it will be for

what our need is at that time.

Sandra B, DCM, 13J—Comment: Historically, this (voting) procedure is so long, that after the first vote is cast, what I've seen is that the first person that has the most votes, people start changing what their original vote was and moving to that candidate to speed up the procedure. I think the integrity of the election would increase greatly if we used these devices because it would shorten the (voting) time and people would stick to their guns and vote their group and their heart rather than go "Let's get this done," and just vote for whoever has the most votes.

Ted, GSR, 5A, LOH—Was there any consideration to the GSRs that are unable to attend the assembly. If we went to an online platform that would allow that voting process to happen off site, so those GSRs would be able to cast their votes even though they were not able to be in Macon?

Rebecca—Georgia Manual states no proxy votes. Page 15 #3 it says: "Proxy votes will not be accepted at the Assembly."

JB, 13B, Heavy Hitters—We have the money to help Alcoholics. Why can't we help Alcoholics? This Assembly takes a lot of time going back and forth. Are we changing The Georgia A.A. Service Manual, or are we changing The A.A. Service Manual?

Inaudible—Just The Georgia A.A. Service Manual

JB—Bill W. said something in the BYLAWS on page S112 of The A.A. Service Manual:

As Bill W. explains in the introduction to this manual, the General Service Board (the trustees) was originally the Alcoholic Foundation, with bylaws as broad as the continent. When the corporate name was changed to General Service Board of A.A., new bylaws were needed which would reflect more clearly the scope and direction of Alcoholics Anonymous. The new bylaws, adopted in 1957, are the work of the late Bernard B. Smith, noted international lawyer, long a nonalcoholic trustee, chair of the board from 1951 to 1956.

What I'm saying is, if that can happen between 1951-1956, it can happen in 2017

Fred, North Marietta Group—Is the rental for the whole year, or just the one weekend?

Missy—Just one weekend; the number of years to be determined by the contract with the vendor

Tom—Was there discussion of the cost, if for some reason we should not be meeting in Macon?

Missy—Looks to us that the cost will not change due to location; each company said they would be available for testing at any facility. No feedback saying cost would be different for different cities.

Ken, Alt DCM—Can the system be hacked during the voting process?

Missy—We felt those discussions best left for Communications Committee.

Ken—The devices are a USB device. That's what is being communicated with, not the normal Wi-Fi. The hand-held devices are registered by serial number to the main device. It's a guarantee the vendor needs to provide us.

Rebecca—We do roll call prior to an election so we know how many voting GSRs and Alt GSRs we have. If something looked skewed, then we would see that.

Sharon, 13D, Memorial Drive Beginners Group—Are we spending \$2000 to save us 1½ hours of time once a year?

Missy—Yes. Multiplied by each person that's about 750 total hours saved.

GSR, 13D Clarkston Group—I call the question

Connie, 7B, Young Peoples Group--Second the call
Show of hands All in favor to end discussion

THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA / PAGE 13

NEW BUSINESS

Approve area committee Chairs and Co-chairs

Cathy B--Corrections Chair

Ken P--Corrections Co-Chair

Don O--Treatment/Special Needs/Accessibilities Chair

Christi G--Treatment/Special Needs/Accessibilities Co-Chair

Show of hands to approve the appointed Committee Members
Approved

Bids for 2019 Prepaid Convention

Frank McDonough, DCM, 5A

We, the DCMs of District 5, are willing to place a bid to host the 2019 Prepaid Convention in Savannah. We believe the budget will be between \$50-\$55 thousand dollars because we are a destination location. We would like the opportunity to be of service to Area 16. Thank you.

GENERAL SHARING

Motion 1

Liz Maddern, GSR, 13I, East Marietta Group

I move that all GSSA Office and Area Service Committee related expenses associated with the Prepaid Convention be reimbursed from the Prepaid Convention Account rather than GSSA.

Summer Brittain, GSR, 13I, Wednesday Night BB—Second

Discussion on Motion

Rusty Lavelly—Recommend a friendly amendment that you replace the wording “reimbursed from the Prepaid Convention account” with “paid from the Prepaid Convention account.”

Liz—Accept friendly amendment

End of discussion

Ernie will appoint an ad hoc study committee. They will report in May and we will vote in September on the Motion.

Motion 2

Whitney Brooker, GSR, 3B, Hoboken Group

To remove the words “Special Needs” from the title of the Area Committee whose title is currently “Treatment/Special Needs/Accessibilities” Committee.

Scott Leccese, GSR, 3C, Homerville Group—Second the motion

Discussion on Motion

No discussion Show of hands—Motion Carries

Minority Opinion

Amy, 13B, Gilmer Group—Why is it so important to take it out? Why can't we just leave it in for the people that are special needs where they don't feel left out?

Don O'Neil—Treatment/Special Needs/Accessibilities Chair—In the workbook and the notebook for Special Needs, the opening line states: “Although we have members with special needs there are no special needs members.” By combining this we're saying we want to make meetings accessible to everyone, rather than singling someone out and saying, “you have a special need.” The attempt is to make it more inclusive. By saying Accessible, what we are talking about is making meetings accessible to anybody who wants to be there. That's the biggest reason for the change.

Motion Carries

Website will be updated, and the Committee name will be changed.

Mark—regards to Prepaid, we had been asked to slow down or stop our group contributions at one point. Now that we are leveling out is there a suggestion from the Treasurer as to what that percentage may be or when we can proceed again for the Prepaid

Convention contributions from the group level?

Rusty L Treasurer—As we have heard, Savannah is putting in a bid for 2019 Convention. It's great that Conventions are under budget, but we have a budget for a reason. We want to provide the services and events that you want at these conventions. The objective is to not give as much money back as can be given back. If there are events you want at your conventions then we want to put them on. We want the Prepaid Committees to utilize what they need to put on the kind of convention that you all want. When you give feedback, fill out surveys, you tell us what you want and then future convention committees utilize that to provide the services and the things you want at these various conventions. So, the money is there. If there is a problem with having a big reserve fund then spend the money that's budgeted to have the convention, and it won't get bigger every year. Having said that, we need to be good stewards of our money. We have this money. It's given to us by you, and all of the people in the state of GA and we don't want to waste money. We have to take that and put it into a good balance. Our reserve fund is 2.86 conventions based on a rolling average of \$41136. Savannah's budget is going to be in the \$50-\$55K range because it's expensive to have conventions there same as it is in Atlanta. Even if Savannah is very tight with their budget they are still going to eat into what we would consider the average budget, about \$42K. We know that. But if we as a body want our convention in Savannah in 2019, we're saying that's ok. If we say that's ok, and if we say that's ok too many times and we don't replenish the funds then the reserve will eventually be gone. Then we will be to a point where we don't have money to put on a convention. We want money there in case we go thru a time where we necessarily, because of budgetary reasons can't give. If you can give to support the Prepaid fund, we ask you to give. If there are other areas of need that you see and you want to move a little money over there for a short period, that's fine. But when things get healthy at all the levels, where you see needs, put your money. As individuals and groups, we can manipulate our money where we see need. Where you see need, give your money. We are asking you consider GSSA and the Prepaid Convention in your giving percentages. We do know that if Savannah has the convention in 2019, the reserve fund will decrease by more than it would if another area had spent what they were budgeted, just by the very nature of the costs in Savannah. I'm asking you take that into account. Please don't stop giving, even if it's a little less, don't stop giving. Once I stop paying for something, it's hard for me to start paying for it again. If I pay a little less, sometimes it doesn't hurt as much to pay a little more the next time when the need comes.

John Riner, DCM, Dist 9

Concerning keeping our Cluster Forums at 4 per year: My District requested that we vote for 8 Cluster Forums a year, and due to financial reasons the vote went to 4 per year. We have a lot of “We Share” books already paid for in our inventory worth over \$10,000 if they were sold. We could have more Cluster Forums which are a form of service, if we had more money. If the Districts could buy these books and sell them to their groups, we could get the money back and help more newcomers who would come to additional Cluster Forums.

Frank Semmes, GSR, White Bluff Group, Savannah—FYI on potential cost of convention in Savannah. I was part of another convention in the area and coffee prices drove up the cost of the convention. If we get 1600 people attending the convention, if the actual registration cost comes out to \$35/person, that's \$56K. \$35 is a very reasonable registration price per head.

Amy, GSR, 15B, Gilmer Area—What is the average cost of one of the kits? Example, Treatment, GSR, Corrections. Not just the workbook, but the whole kit?

Inaudible--\$19.50

Amy—We have a lot of new trusted servants in my area and a lot of new GSRs here. What is the process I would have to go thru to see if the ones that are completely new to the trusted service position on having the state send them the kits so the ones going into the new positions have all the information they need? Some groups can't afford the kits.

Rebecca—Are you referring to the GSR kits or all kits?

Amy—All committee kits

Rebecca—GSRs receive kits from GSO describing their duties

Joan—Secretary—You can download all the information at aa.org.

On the website, there is a ribbon scrolling in the middle of the page where you can find literature. You are allowed to print one copy. If there is pertinent information you would like from the kit you can print it if you can't afford to purchase a kit. You can keep going back to the website to re-read the kit. As a reference, Grapevine has not had a printed workbook for years. The only way you can get their workbook is online. When I was a GVR, I would have to go to the website, and if I wanted a copy of the whole workbook I would have to print 102 pages which is expensive. But I could go there and print the pages I needed the information from, or keep going to the website, back to the workbook.

Motion to close

Mark, GSR, 16D, Solution Group—Motion to close

Connie, GSR, 7B, Young Peoples Group—2nd the motion

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. PLEASE REMEMBER THE CUT OFF DATE IS May 5, 2017.

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.

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



METRO ATLANTA CLUSTER FORUM FORO REGIONAL



Distrito Lingüístico #17 Área #16

Sábado 18 de Marzo 2017

Respaldar Nuestro Futuro

A. Crecimiento:

1. Diversidad– iniciativas de colaboración y atracción
2. Seguridad– Una consideración importante
3. Comunicación– hoy y mañana

B. Participación:

1. ¿Comunidad o Sociedad?
2. El liderazgo: “Yo soy responsable”
3. ¿Se oye tu voz?

C. Contribuciones:

1. La espiritualidad y el dinero
2. Cumplir nuestras obligaciones completamente auto mantenidos
3. La apatía y el poder del bolsillo

Supporting our Future

A. Growth:

1. Diversity– Outreach and attraction
2. Safety– An important consideration
3. Communication– Today and Tomorrow

B. Participation:

1. Fellowship vs. Membership
2. Leadership- “I am Responsible
3. Is your voice heard?

C. Contributions:

1. Spirituality and Money
2. Fully self-supporting our obligations
3. Apathy and the Power of the Purse

Registration Begins at 8:30 AM - 9:00AM * Registros Comienzan a las 8:30 AM - 9:00 AM

Forum Begins Promptly at 10:00 AM * Foro Comienza Puntualmente a las 10:00 AM

Breakfast and Lunch will be provided * Se dará Desayuno y Almuerzo

**Grupo Sobriedad Latina
3609 Shallowford Rd. Suite 400
Atlanta, GA 30340**

64th GEORGIA STATE PREPAID CONVENTION

OCTOBER 12-15th 2017 MACON, GA

Macon Marriott City Center
240 Coliseum Drive, Macon GA 31217
478-621-5300

"PRESERVING OUR FUTURE"



AND THE
"STEPS – TRADITIONS – PROGRAM – FELLOWSHIP"

SPEAKER PANEL

Chris S. – Sharpsburg, GA
Donna H. – Billings, MT
Earl H. – Scottsdale, AZ
Elyse J. – Clarkston, GA (Al-Anon)
Jim R. – Helen, GA
Kent C. – Sandusky, OH
Sandy H. – Port Charlotte, FL

NAME _____ NAME ON BADGE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL _____ HOME GROUP _____

HOME GRP LOCATION _____ TELEPHONE _____ SOBRIETY DATE _____

AA ☐ AL-ANON ☐ ALATEEN ☐ INTERESTED IN: GOLF ☐ KAYAKING \$30.00 ☐

SPECIAL NEEDS: ☐ HEARING (SIGNER AVAILABLE) ☐ SIGHT ☐ WHEELCHAIR
OTHER _____

All Room Rates: \$ 120. Plus tax \$141.80

Mail Registration Form to:

64th GEORGIA STATE PREPAID CONVENTION, PO BOX 5713, MACON GA 31208

Or Register On-line at:

www.aageorgia.org/prepaid.htm

Out-of-State Registration Fee: AA & Al-Anon \$25; Alateen \$10— Cash or Checks Only

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, EMAIL US AT 64THPREPAID@AAGEORGIA.ORG