

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

Confidential for members  
March / April 2018  
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## Group Conscience: The Guiding Force

By Rick M.  
Area 16 Delegate

As I reported at our January Assembly, I attended the Southern States AA Service Assembly this past November. I particularly liked the Concepts workshops. There was a lot of interest in Concept discussions around the recent "Manuscript Litigation" case from some of our current and former Trusted Servants. Of particular interest to me was a comment made in reference to this case by a former Trustee during a Concept sharing session. He stated (I'm paraphrasing), "I hope our fellowship pays attention to Concept I and is able to muster the courage to act on it. The groups are ultimately responsible for our fellowship."

That night I went back to my room and reread Concept I: "The final responsibility and the ultimate authority

for AA world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole fellowship." The first line in the first paragraph told me what I really needed to know and what I believed I had heard from the former Trustee: "The AA groups today hold ultimate responsibility and final authority for our world services - those special elements of over-all service activity which make it possible for our society to function as a whole."

As I read on, another paragraph **spoke** loudly to me as Bill W. describes why this responsibility and authority was given to the groups. "There were other reasons for this basic shift of ultimate responsibility and authority to AA as a whole. These reasons center around Tradition Two, which declares: "For our group purpose, there is but one ultimate authority — a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but

trusted servants; they do not govern."

My understanding is that we, the AA groups, through our group conscience and the expression of a loving God, are the "Guiding Force" for our fellowship.

My hope is we remember our responsibility as we review all of the topics coming up for discussion at the 68<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference in April. I would like to "know my state's conscience." The topics and background material were distributed to your DCM in mid-February and should be available for your group to discuss.

At our January Assembly, we heard the recommendation from the ad hoc committee on the motion "to take a roll call before each assembly of eligible voters," and we will vote on the motion at our May Assembly.

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

## Our GA Service Assembly

By Debi K.  
Area 16 Alternate Delegate

Bill W. wrote, "AA service is anything whatever that helps us to reach a fellow sufferer—ranging all the way from the Twelfth Step itself to a ten-cent phone call and a cup of coffee, and to A.A.'s General Service Office for national and international action. The sum total of all these services is our Third Legacy of Service."

Our Georgia State Service Assembly (GSSA), held three times a year in Macon, is a beautiful example of AA service in action. If you have not had the opportunity to attend, I strongly urge you to stop in and take advantage of the AA meetings, workshops, committee presentations, and our Area 16 business meeting. It is an awesome experience.

We had our last GSSA the weekend of Jan. 19-21 at the Macon Marriott. Over 500 sober alcoholics were in attendance. The weekend began with an

AA discussion meeting on Friday night. On Saturday morning, we start bright and early at 9 a.m. with workshops for GSRs, Group District Secretary/Treasurers, and District Committee Members. The Web Committee, Communications Committee, Archives, Grapevine, PI/CPC, Treatment Accessibilities, and Prepaid Conference Committee all host workshops as well. The purpose of these workshops is to provide information to our members on the Twelve-Step work happening around Georgia. Hopefully, you will find an area that sparks your interest and talents and you will become involved. There is always work to do to carry the message of AA.

We have a GSR **workshop** on Saturday for all in attendance. This meeting includes brief information updates from each of our Committee Chairs. There is also an opportunity to visit our GSSA office in Macon and view our Georgia Archives. It's a long and fulfilling day.

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On Sunday morning, we hold our Area 16 Business Meeting, where we discuss all matters of importance to our Area 16 Fellowship. Those meetings are sometimes lengthy and messy but the beauty of Alcoholics Anonymous in action is that it works. It's truly an experience you will not want to miss. I hope you will come and become inspired to become a part of AA's Legacy of Service.

I am so happy to be part of our Area 16 Service Structure and am grateful for the opportunity to give something back to AA.

I hope to see you at our next Georgia State Service Assembly the weekend of May 18.

## TREASURER / treasurer@aageorgia.org

### 2017 Financials

By Rusty L.  
Area 16 Treasurer

As I reported at the January Assembly, the financials for 2017 finished up with a \$6,504 net income, which was lower than hoped, but still **positive** for the year. Even though group contributions were down compared to 2016 by \$7,373, in an economy that was overall **humming** along, operational and literature expenses were kept in check, allowing GSSA to finish 2017 in the black.

In November 2017, the DCMs approved the 2018 budget for GSSA. Based on reduced group contributions toward the end of 2017, the decision was made to hold that budgeted level while minimally increasing operational levels to cover a few additional requests by committee chairs.

Literature sales remained solidly good, so a reasonable increase was also approved.

We still have some work to do to increase our GSSA reserve fund to the hoped-for twelve months of operational expenses. Therefore, I am asking members and groups in AA Georgia to assess your giving this year and see if it's possible to slightly increase your contributions to GSSA in 2018 so we can meet our financial goals and provide the services approved by our DCMs to you and to the sick and suffering alcoholic still looking for a way out.

I wish everyone in Georgia a happy, prosperous, and sober 2018. Thanks again for all you do financially to support your Area. You are the financial lifeblood of AA in Georgia.

## SECRETARY / secretary@aageorgia.org

### Protecting Anonymity when using Email

By Joan M.  
Area 16 Secretary

It is not uncommon for secretaries to send an email to group members including business **meeting** minutes, group financial reports and group member lists. Is there a difference in how we send the emails? Are we following Traditions when using the internet to communicate? If I'm not sure of the answer to such questions I generally try to see if there is anything written in our literature on the subject.

AA publishes Guidelines on various subjects, including the Internet. "AA Guidelines on Internet" in part states: "When using email, it is necessary to consider the anonymity of the recipients of messages. Sending messages to multiple recipients that disclose the email addresses of everyone on the addressee list is a potential break of someone else's anonymity. Therefore, it is a good idea to obtain a recipient's explicit permission before using his or

her email address for AA correspondence, especially if it is a workplace email address. When sending AA mail to multiple recipients who wish to remain anonymous, use can be made of the BCC (Blind Courtesy Copy) option available on most computers."

In part, Tradition Eleven states: "we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films." True, it does not spell out "the Internet"; however, in 2013, the General Service Conference stated the internet, social media and any other public communications are implied in this Tradition.

It would be a tall order for me to check with everyone I send emails to when there are multiple recipients. Obtaining permission to use their email address for AA correspondence would be time-consuming. I err on the safe side and send all my AA emails with multiple addressees using my name in the "To" line, using the "BCC" line for everyone else's email address.

## 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](mailto:grapevine@aageorgia.org)**

**Subscription Challenge**

By Robert M., Chair  
Susan D., Co-Chair  
Area 16 Grapevine Committee

We are honored to serve Area 16. Don't forget our challenge for 2018; we want to increase Grapevine and LaVina subscriptions.

Two prizes for the **winning** state, province or territory. Receive a special section in a 2019 issue. Come on Georgia, we can do this!

Susan and I already have a few Grape-A-Thons to attend and are looking for more. If you would like us to attend your group/district business meeting to share about how to become more involved

with the Grapevine, please let us know.

Gift certificates can be bought for Grapevine subscriptions. These make a great gift for sponsees, birthday celebrations or buy one and give to our delegate to pass on.

The AA Grapevine Statement of Purpose: The AA Grapevine is the international journal of Alcoholics Anonymous. Written, edited, illustrated, and read by AA members and others interested in the AA program of recovery from alcoholism, the Grapevine is a lifeline linking one alcoholic to another.

**Treatment / Accessibilities [treatment@aageorgia.org](mailto:treatment@aageorgia.org)**

**What Does Treatment Do?**

By Christie G., Chair  
Richard R., Co-Chair  
Area 16 Treatment / Accessibilities Committee

The Treatment Committee helps members and groups carry the message into inpatient and outpatient treatment settings. Other settings into which local committees carry the AA message are court-ordered treatment meetings, halfway and three-quarter houses, **crisis** centers and safe houses, sober living transitional homes, nursing homes, retirement communities, assisted living facilities, VA facilities, homeless shelters, and detoxification centers. The committee also helps the facilities with Bridge the Gap. The Bridge the Gap program has two forms. One, inside request, goes inside the facility. The other is outside volunteer.

The Accessibility Committee explores, develops and offers resources to make AA's message and participation in recovery available to everyone who reaches out. Accessibility issues apply to all alcoholics who have difficulties participating in AA, whether those difficulties are mental, physical, geographical, cultural,

ethnic, spiritual, or emotional. So, what can be done to make AA accessible to all? A wide variety of material is available, including literature in Braille, American Sign Language, and easy-to-read pamphlets in English, as well as other languages, in regular and large print.

Thank you to District 3B for hosting this year's Area Treatment Workshop. More information to follow. We had a great time in January playing Family Feud during the Assembly workshop. Stay tuned for updates from your Area Treatment Accessibilities Committee.

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

**PI/CPC and 2018**

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

With another amazing GSSA in the books, and so much momentum for our committee, we are excited for the work we can accomplish in 2018. Our two upcoming conventions, Association for Gerontology in Higher Education and American Counseling Association, have a lot of steam and so many volunteers that we hope to carry the message well enough. We will be manning booths in both March and April, and we are looking forward to this amazing opportunity.

Our primary goal for 2018 is already well underway. It is to encourage every Area 16 district to nominate a PICPC chair, and to encourage that member to attend our workshops throughout the year. Several members of the committee are already in place and excited about the work ahead. We have so much more to accomplish in Area 16, but the future is bright. Some of our new PICPC reps are already encouraging groups in their district to elect even more chairpersons.

If we accomplish as much as we can on this goal, we will inevitably be carrying the message to the best of our ability. We hope that all who read this come attend our workshops at GSSA. Our attendance had been from GSR to Delegate, and we would like to continue helping anyone who asks.

**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 (GSSA) GEORGIA STATE SERVICE ASSEMBLY, TO GET THE GROUP RATE. PLEASE  
REMEMBER THE CUT OFF DATE IS May 5, 2018.**

The Georgia Message of AA is published by Area 16.

**CONTACT:**

P.O. Box 7325, Macon, GA 31209 or [gssa@aageorgia.org](mailto:gssa@aageorgia.org).

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

### What is Communications

By Diane M., Chair  
Chuck H., Co-chair  
Area 16 Communications Committee

Communication has been critical to "carrying the message" since the founding of AA. "We were sure that unless our recovery experiences were put on paper, our principles and practices would soon be distorted," Bill W. wrote about the origins of the Big Book in a June 1947 Grapevine article reprinted in "The Language of the Heart." (page 58)

Bill W., writing in July 1960 on the growth of AA, said that "it occurs to me that every aspect of this global unfoldment can be related to a single crucial word. The word is communication." (page 243, "The Language of the Heart")

Communications has two objectives:

- Carrying the Message — for example, meeting locations and schedules and providing access to AA Literature.
- Informed Group Conscience — information for the Fellowship to make

an informed decision — Committee Reports, Q&A, Agendas, Meeting Minutes, Motions, translators, etc.

Two of the primary tools used in Area 16 to meet these objectives are the Georgia Message and the aageorgia.org website. Both tools help us to disseminate information throughout the Area to help keep its members and Groups **informed**. However, we need your help to be successful. We are currently unable to disseminate information to our Spanish-speaking members in Area 16. We are grateful to have two wonderful members, Lynn and Frank, who translate at the Area Assembly. Prepaid Convention, and at other events, but we do not have bilingual written translators to translate the Georgia Message and other written material.

If you can be of service, please complete the "Translation Volunteer Form" available at <http://www.aageorgia.org/communications.html>. With your help we can "carry the message" to our Hispanic members.

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

### Is My Triangle Balanced

By Fred I., Chair  
Mike S., Co-Chair  
Area 16 Archives Committee

Spring will soon be arriving, and our new Officers, Chairs and Co-Chairs have been affirmed by the Assembly Body.

As Chair of the Archive Committee & the new responsibilities it brings, holds me in a state of wonderment as to how this fellowship was established; how it has perpetuated itself with so much consideration for others and its selflessness. Our founders worked tirelessly to establish this format.

The archive policy committee, working to improve The Georgia AA Archives for future generations are hoping, that when these future AA's ask their "who or why questions", will find this resource available to them in an organized accessible **fashion**.

Bernard Smith, non-AA Trustee, vice chairman of AA's General Service Board, was credited by Bill W. as the architect of our service structure. Bernard stated, "When we know predominantly what we want to do, let's do it. When we are not quite sure, let's wait." Bernard joined the General Service Board in 1944, served as its chairman and chairman of the General Service Conference from 1951 to 1956 and was Board vice chairman until his death. Less than one month after he substituted for Bill W. at our Convention in Miami Beach, died of a heart attack at his New York home on July 31, 1970. He was 68 years old.

In a statement delivered at his funeral service by G.S.O. Manager Bob H., AA's co-founder Bill W. described Bernard as a "great and devoted servant" to AA who "not only understood our Fellowship but believed in it as well."

Mike S. Archive Co-Chair and myself will have much to do this year, there is a myriad of issues to be addressed and discussed for this all to happen, starting with the 1st Cluster Forum in Albany in March. This year's theme:  
AA — A Solution for All Generations.

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

### Corrections in Action

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

I want to thank everyone for helping to get the word out that our Certification Training in January was cancelled at the last minute. There was only one group of 3 that arrived to find that it had been cancelled. The next training will be May 26<sup>th</sup>, from 8 am till noon. There is no charge for the training, and you don't need to bring anything but your willingness to service. Coffee and donuts will be provided.

Please remember that this Certification will allow you to bring meetings into State Prisons. You don't need this to get into your local County Jails. Each County has their specific process and paperwork, and almost always requires a background check. If you haven't been involved in Corrections service before, your local County Jail is a great place to start. As I mentioned at Assembly, the 1<sup>st</sup>

Annual National Corrections Conference (NCC) in St Louis was awesome. There were 3 main speakers, and 40 other speakers on 14 panels. The 2018 NCC will be in Portland Maine on November 2-4. The purpose of the weekend is for AA members interested in correction work behind the bars to come together, share experience, exchange information, and hear from corrections professionals, former inmates, and other trusted servants. We hope to inspire AA members everywhere to get involved in this important and rewarding service. If you'd like to get on the mailing list send your email address to [2018nccinfo@gmail.com](mailto:2018nccinfo@gmail.com). The website should be up and running shortly. The 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Freedom from Bondage Conference is March 9-11 at the Hampton Inn & Suites 200 Columbus Dr. Aberdeen NC. Registration is \$15 in advance and \$18 at the door.

## Birthday Contributions

### **District 1, Zone A**

Seminole Group  
Chris M – January 24, 2009

### **District 3, Zone D**

First Things First SSI Group  
Whitney B – January 7, 2014

### **District 5, Zone A**

New Horizons Group  
Ernie M – January 19, 1989

### **District 7, Zone A**

The Surrender Group  
Fran L – September 12, 2011

### **District 10, Zone D**

No Matter What Group  
Beth B – May 17, 1999

### **District 11, Zone A**

Walton County Group  
Jocelyn – January 1, 2010

### **District 13, Zone A**

Chapter 3 Group  
Ellen B – November 28, 2012

### **Clean Air Group**

Bill M – December 15, 1993

### **District 13, Zone F**

Twilight Group  
Anthony J – October 8, 1995

### **District 13, Zone H**

Journey of Days Group  
Jenine M - February 28, 2008

### **District 16, Zone B**

Third Tradition Group  
Mary F – November 3, 2007

### **District 16, Zone E**

Chestatee Group  
Robert K – November 10, 1986

### **Morning Miracles Group**

Lindsey B – January 25, 1998  
Annette J – December 21, 2009

## New Groups

### **District 13 Zone H**

#### **One Step At A Time Group**

Calvary Grove Baptist Church  
3167 Zion St  
Scottdale, GA 30079  
Tuesday 5:30 p.m. closed

### **District 14 Zone C**

#### **Harmony Group**

Harmony On The Lakes Clubhouse  
297 Harmony Lake Dr  
Canton, GA 30115  
Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

### **District 14 Zone D**

#### **Bremen Group**

112 B Florida Ave  
Bremen, GA 30110  
Thursday 8:00 p.m. Open Discussion

## 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).

Continued from Page 1.

In May, we will also be taking nominations for Area 16 Secretary and Area 16 Treasurer. The qualifications are outlined in our Area 16 Service Manual. Please bring your nominations to the May Assembly! I look forward to the General Service Conference April 23-28 and reporting the highlights back to you at our May Assembly.

I am available to your Districts/Zones and Groups, and happy to travel in order to meet you and discuss our state's service activities. Please send me an invitation and I'll come to your home group, zone/district meeting, or event/location.

## FROM YOUR CO-EDITOR

As I write this, knowing I need to prepare a presentation for Unity Weekend 16C and 16D in three days, I realize I have several choices. There was a time I thought I had few, if any. I had to drink and continue to ruin my life.

As for today's **choices**: I can kick myself for procrastinating again. Alternatively, I can do the next right thing, finish this.

I can inventory why I keep doing this to myself, which, all joking aside, I've been putting off for a long time. I can accept that my choices today won't always be the best ones, but I have a path to improvement in the Twelve Steps.

Most of all, I can choose to show my eternal gratitude for what AA has given me by continuing to be of service.

— Tom R., Area 16 Co-Editor

**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 9-11</b>	<b>Flint River Round Up - Albany</b>
<b>March 9-11</b>	<b>G.A.L.S. - Toccoa</b>
<b>March 17</b>	<b>District 9 Spring Fling - Twin City</b>
<b>March 23-25</b>	<b>Atlanta Men's Workshop - Rockeagle</b>
<b>March 24</b>	<b>Southwest Cluster Forum</b>
	<b>Albany Includes (1A,1B,2A,2B)</b>
<b>April 1</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of District 17 - Doraville</b>
<b>April 7</b>	<b>DCM Pre-Conference Meeting</b>
	<b>Macon/Marriott</b>
<b>April 22-28</b>	<b>68<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference—New York</b>
<b>April 27-29</b>	<b>Women's Recovery Workshop -Rockeagle</b>
<b>May 6</b>	<b>Metro Service Meeting - NABA/Atlanta</b>
<b>May 12</b>	<b>District 16F Picnic - Franklin Springs</b>

**The deadline for the articles for the message for May & 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**

**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.

P	O	S	I	T	I	V	E	Y	H	P	T	B	V	Y
N	O	I	H	S	A	F	J	H	K	E	T	C	Z	D
T	Z	G	V	I	G	S	K	N	P	O	I	R	E	T
Y	O	K	X	W	N	I	E	M	C	F	I	I	A	O
P	P	G	K	T	I	J	J	X	C	J	D	S	Y	O
S	W	N	G	J	N	F	L	X	O	Q	W	I	C	L
A	T	I	N	Z	N	J	P	X	L	L	D	S	U	S
M	S	M	I	K	I	X	O	M	T	H	J	I	V	Q
M	U	M	T	I	W	J	H	D	S	O	U	N	A	C
K	W	U	E	F	L	Q	S	E	E	U	N	F	Q	F
R	K	H	E	S	K	U	K	P	C	W	O	O	W	F
J	M	S	M	D	V	C	R	G	I	K	W	R	H	N
H	E	S	T	U	X	N	O	I	O	O	T	M	Z	Y
L	J	T	A	F	H	X	W	L	H	R	K	E	E	V
F	H	C	Q	E	K	O	P	S	C	E	J	D	D	L

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

Georgia State Service Assembly  
Business Meeting Minutes  
Pending Approval at the May, 2018 Business Meeting  
Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018

Business Meeting opened by Ernie M., with the Serenity Prayer recited in Spanish, followed by English

## **Delegate's Report—Rick M**

Rick began his report with a welcome and acknowledgement of all attendees at this first assembly in 2018. He then asked how many were attending their very first assembly and extended a warm welcome to them all. Rick then thanked several individuals for their participation over the weekend and went into a few general comments before giving this detailed report:

### **A Look Back at the Last Quarter of 2017**

A most successful 64<sup>th</sup> Pre-paid convention was held and you'll hear more this morning from the committee chair as she gives the final report. I don't know about you, but I didn't have to leave this facility for lack of food! DCM Planning meeting was held on Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>, we welcomed the new committee chairs and co-chairs. You'll meet and hopefully approve them this morning. We also approved our 2018 GSSA budget and learned of the pre-conference meeting committee assignments for the April meeting here in Macon. The following weekend Area 16 co-hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> Southern States A.A. Service Assembly. There were several Areas interested in learning more about our Cluster Forums as Ernie and I both talked about them in our workshops. Thank you, Rebecca T., Joe W., and Jenine M. for all your efforts to make it a great success. Interesting, the most popular workshops were on the 12 Concepts. I also want to congratulate and thank Cathy B., our Corrections Committee Chair, on attending and being a part of the committee for the 1<sup>st</sup> annual National Corrections Conference held in St. Louis, Missouri. Maybe Georgia would be interested in hosting this event in 2020?

### **Manuscript Litigation**

On May 19, 2017, we were informed by the General Manager of GSO that the Board asked the New York State Supreme Court to issue a restraining order against an individual preparing to sell at auction, the 1939 Printer's Copy of the manuscript of Alcoholics Anonymous, our Big Book. The restraining order was granted. This has led to wide and varied conversations in our fellowship. At our November DCM Planning meeting, I had mentioned taking time this weekend during our Saturday afternoon workshop to discuss this topic. I wanted Area 16 to be "informed" about this topic in an open, non-judgmental forum. Fortunately, although the case is not completely over, GSO has asked the court for a "Motion to Discontinue" the litigation. GSO, in court documents, stated "The time and expense of this litigation are a distraction". Additionally, the affidavit goes on to say, "A.A.'s principles call for pacifism and the avoidance of controversy and conflict where possible, and given that the protracted nature of this dispute has become clear these principles are at play." These statements appear to sound very much like our Traditions and Concepts at work. The judge in this case has set a February date to hear more.

**General Service Board 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Meeting highlights** – the October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017 meeting reported activities of the GSB including A.A. World Services, Inc., A.A. Grapevine, Inc.

### **Technology/Communications/Services**

A progress report on the Google for Nonprofit YouTube channel stated that 3 P.S.A.s have been uploaded in English, French and Spanish. Discussions will continue as to what other materials will be included as the project nears a launch date. This YouTube channel has been launched. : <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2nfvf9DeDA7QYvLeq4pQ-w>

### **Board Approved Recommendations from Publishing:**

That the facsimile of the First Edition Big Book, *Pass It On, Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers*, and *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age* be bundled as a special holiday gift set for \$30 per set. The set will be available in English, French and Spanish with the exception of the 75th Commemorative facsimile of the First Edition Big Book which is only available in English.

That A.A.W.S. proceed with the audio recording of the Twelve Concepts for World Service in English, French and Spanish to be streamed on the aa.org website.

### ***Grapevine***

September YTD Sales are ahead of projections. September YTD cash inflows were \$2,314,206 vs projected inflows of \$1,929,606 (\$385K ahead of projections).

2nd AAGV book/eBook ("*Voices of Women in AA*") is out and doing better than projected

Gross profit from the Grapevine Magazine during the first nine months of 2017 was \$1,060,758, which is \$63,370 more than the \$997,388 budgeted and \$23,218 less than the \$1,083,976 for last year.

The Grapevine App is at 1938 subscriptions vs. a budget of 270. This app is doing much better than anticipated.

### ***Archives***

The Archives renovation of the exhibit area and staff workstations is complete and looks great! The Archives is open for visitors again.

### **Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC)**

*Sub-committee on LinkedIn Page:* The chair of the subcommittee gave a progress report on considering LinkedIn as a platform for providing information about A.A. to professionals who come into contact with problem drinkers. The subcommittee will continue their work and present a written report for the January meeting.

*Adding text to the Armed Services pamphlets:* The secretary gave a progress report on adding text to pamphlets for professionals about A.A. and the military and informed the committee that Publishing will have drafts available for review at the January 2018 meeting.

### **Treatment and Accessibility**

*Alcoholics who are members of the Armed Services:* The committee reviewed the progress report on strategies being explored. The chair appointed a subcommittee consisting of Richard B., chair and Homer M. The subcommittee will research updating committee workbooks, developing service material and additional resources for the professional community, veterans, and active duty A.A. members. The subcommittee will provide a progress report at the January 2018 meeting.

*AA for the Alcoholic with Special Needs:* AAWS approved the edit of DVD/CD versions of "AA for the Alcoholic with Special Needs" to conform to the revision of the pamphlet, retitling it "Accessibility for All Alcoholics" (not to exceed \$20,000).

*Request to develop pamphlet for Deaf AA members:* Committee reviewed the progress report on sharing from Deaf and Hard of Hearing A.A. members regarding the effectiveness of our literature, service material and other media. The staff secretary will provide a progress report at the January 2018 meeting.

### **Corrections**

The First National Corrections Conference was held November 10-12, 2017, in St. Louis, MO. There were 35 States, including Puerto Rico, and 4 Canadian provinces represented. It was a huge success. Over 389 AA members involved in corrections service attended. The 2018 conference will be held next November in Maine.

*Letter from Corrections professional:* The committee noted the benefits that a CPC letter from a professional on the A.A. website has had within the professional community, and suggested a few potential professionals in regards to creating a similar service piece with a corrections professional.

*Proposal for new pamphlet for long-term inmates:* The committee discussed a proposal for a new pamphlet for long-term incarcerated inmates. The committee agreed to forward to the 2018 Conference Committee on Corrections the proposal to develop a new pamphlet focused on long-term incarcerated alcoholics soon to be released.

### **Finance**

*Summary:* Total revenue for the first 9 months was \$13,150,183, compared to total expenses of \$11,847,697, resulting in net profit for 2017 of \$1,302,486. This compares with a budgeted profit of \$85,993. This increase is due almost entirely to a \$568,405 increase in gross profit from literature and \$593,175 from contributions. When the 2017 profit of \$1,302,486 is compared to 2016 actual profit of \$800,145, the increase is due to the increase in gross profit from literature of \$526,793 and the additional contributions of \$414,100. This combined increase was offset by the \$438,530 increase in expenses.

*Seventh Tradition Contributions:* As of September 30<sup>th</sup>, there was a record \$5.8 million in 7<sup>th</sup> tradition contributions. GSO gives many thanks to the Fellowship for their contributions. Georgia = \$96,961.47 54.1% of Groups (429 of 793) (up from 2016 - 53.09%)

**General Service Conference – April 22<sup>nd</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>.** I will be a member of two committees, the *Literature Committee* and, the *Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums*. We will have a Pre-conference meeting April 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss all committee topics for this year's GSC. I'm excited have received these assignments!

### **Literature**

*Draft Matrix of Recovery Literature:* The committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2018 Conference Committee on Literature a finalized version of the draft matrix of recovery literature. The committee requested that the staff secretary draft a cover memo for the matrix and bring it to the January 2018 meeting for review.

*Request for atheist/agnostic pamphlet:* The committee reviewed and agreed to forward (with additional background) to the 2018 Conference Committee on Literature a request for the development of a pamphlet for atheist/agnostic members.

## **THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA / PAGE 9**

*Request for publication of "The God Word":* The committee discussed and agreed to forward to the 2018 Conference Committee on Literature a request that A.A. (U.S./Canada) publish the "The God Word" (a pamphlet currently published by A.A. United Kingdom).

*Request for revision to the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous:* The committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2018 Conference Committee on Literature a request to add the A.A. Preamble and Responsibility Statement to the Big Book.

*Request for pamphlet on A.A.'s Three Legacies:* The committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2018 Conference Committee on Literature a request for a new pamphlet based upon A.A.'s Three Legacies.

*Subcommittee on the inclusion of safety language in recovery literature:* The committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2018 Conference Committee on Literature the report and suggestions on the inclusion of safety language in recovery literature.

### **Nominating**

*Proposal to reorganize the A.A.W.S and General Service Boards* - The committee discussed and agreed to forward to the 2018 Conference Committee on Trustees a proposal from an area regarding a reorganization of the A.A.W.S and General Service Boards with historical background material.

*Proposal to censure General Service Boards* - The committee discussed and agreed to forward to the 2018 Conference Committee on Trustees a proposal from an area to censure General Service Boards with historical background material.

### **Public Information**

*Understanding Anonymity:* The committee heard a progress report on the update to the pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity," including language related to safety, and tabled further discussion to their January 27, 2018 meeting.

*A Brief Guide to A.A.:* The committee reviewed draft language to update the pamphlet "A Brief Guide to A.A.," including language related to safety, and after suggesting edits to the draft language and requesting a legal review of the added language on safety, tabled further discussion to their January meeting.

*Google AdWords and Google Grants:* The committee reviewed a report from Allison Callis and Shari Miller, regarding how Google AdWords and Grants can be used to carry the A.A. message. After reviewing the "strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats" (SWOT) identified in the report, tabled discussion to a conference call prior to their January meeting.

### **Challenge: Balancing our Triangle**

Rick expressed his hope the action of "Balancing our Triangle" would be one of the many messages carried back and acted upon in our home groups this year. That all of us, through our "examples, enthusiasm, and experience", demonstrate to fellow home group members the true joy and growth opportunities with a balanced triangle of Recovery, Unity, and Service.

Rick read highlights of Area 16 to be submitted and read at the General Service Conference in April.

### **Recognition of Past Area Officers—Ernie M**

Glenda, Past Secretary, Past Office Manager; Harold I., Past Treasurer; Patty L., Past Secretary, Past Delegate; Tom H., Past Secretary, Past Delegate; David M., Past Treasurer, Past Delegate

### **Approval of Minutes from September 2017 Business Meeting—Ernie M**

One amendment noted to correct the name of the person seconding the motion to close.

Show of hands

All in favor

### **64<sup>th</sup> GA Prepaid Convention Final Report (Macon)—Tracy M., Convention Chair**

**Date—October 12-15, 2017**

**Theme—Preserving Our Future with Unity, Service and Recovery**

#### **64<sup>th</sup> Georgia State Prepaid Convention Final Report**

I'd like to begin by thanking everyone for giving me the opportunity to serve as Chair of the Georgia 64th Prepaid Convention.

This has been an experience that has shown me again that we serve an awesome God that works through his kids! From the very beginning when our bid was accepted at assembly the right people have stepped up and done their part. Big Mike Co-Chaired and was our voice throughout the weekend. He was a rock and reminded me often, Tracy God's got this!

Our State Office Committee and especially Rick, Rusty, and Tamera have given me their time and guidance throughout the last three years. The 64th Prepaid Convention Committee and over 162 volunteers that came together and went above and beyond with their time and hard work making badges, greeting, and being of service in so many ways.

The 64th Georgia State Prepaid Convention was hosted by districts 7A and 7B and was held October 12th thru 15th here at The Macon Centreplex. The Marriott, our host hotel, provided us with great service and facilities throughout the Convention. I want to give a special thanks to Tom H. and Tamera for all the help they provided our facilities chair in negotiating our contract with the hotel.

Attendance at the Convention was 1,464! The cost of the Convention was \$37,556, coming in at \$4444 under budget. We as a committee decided early on to include and accommodate all our service committees at the Convention. We also were committed to having all 4 days Thursday thru Sunday. Our goal was to have a great convention. That we were able to come in under budget was an added blessing! There were 6 AA Speakers and 1 Al-Anon Speaker. There were two workshops, early bird AA meetings,

## THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA / PAGE 10

and an Al-Anon meeting. Each speaker gave heartfelt experience and shared inspiring recovery.

Our districts were able to have the hospitality room that we believe was over the top! There was an ongoing supply and variety of hot food, deserts, snacks, water, and soft drinks as well. Home groups from 7A and 7B prepared, brought in, and served meals in shifts throughout the Convention. Coffee was available at all times during the weekend.

The Saturday Kayak Expedition Float made 2 trips and was a great success! Everyone received a ribbon at the end of their float. 48 people participated. There was a golf tournament Saturday morning with trophies for the winners. We were able to provide local musicians in our hospitality room that volunteered to perform. Friday night there was Karaoke. Big Mike did his famous sobriety countdown before our Saturday night speaker. Saturday night we had a great live band and dance.

The theme was "Preserving our Future" with Unity, Service, and Recovery. I saw and felt Alcoholics Anonymous alive and well in full rooms and full hearts. How blessed we are to live this way of life and celebrate it with each other!

I'm looking forward to Athens this year!

Thank you for allowing me to serve, Tracy M., 64<sup>th</sup> Prepaid Chair

### **Southern States Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (SSAASA) Final Report—Rebecca T**

Thanks for the support and privilege to host SSAASA. There were representatives from all over the Southeast, Ohio, and one person from Canada who stopped on their way to Florida.

This was a weekend filled with workshops and panels where attendees could exchange ideas. The Concepts workshops were surprisingly the most well attended, with standing room only.

There were 260 people in attendance. Thanks to all for helping us meet our room block at the host hotel, keeping other hotel expenses low.

I am grateful to have co-hosted this event with Alabama.

### **65<sup>th</sup> GA Prepaid Convention Report (Athens)—Jim T., Convention Chair**

**Theme:** A.A. – A Solution for All Generations

**Dates:** Friday, Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**Venue:** The Classic Center, 300 N. Thomas Street, Athens, GA 30601

State of the art facility, newly renovated, seating for 1600 (Grand Hall 1-7) On-site Hospitality Suite.

#### **Host Hotels:**

Hilton Garden Inn: directly across from Classic Center; \$139/night; 140 Rooms reserved

Holiday Inn: 0.3 mile away, \$109/night; 125 rooms reserved

Holiday Inn Express: 0.5 mile away, \$99/night; 100 Rooms reserved

Cutoff date for Reservations is October 5, 2018

There are blocks of rooms reserved for us with no pressure to fill them. That being said, on October 5<sup>th</sup>, room rates will go back to their normal rates. The rates they are giving us are very good. There will be NO cost to GSSA if you book your rooms after the cutoff date. However, the cost to YOU will increase if you book after the cutoff date.

#### **Speakers:**

Bill S., Roswell, GA

Tammy Z., Humble, TX

Korbyn B., Springfield, MO

Kristina W., San Anselmo, CA

Clif G., Oklahoma City, OK

Lori G. (AFG), Oklahoma City, OK

#### **Activities:**

Golf Tournament (Jennings Mill CC), Motorcycle Poker Run, Fun Run/Walk, Yoga, Georgia-Florida Game Viewing and Meal. (There will be a room set up with seating for about 200. The game will be projected on a screen and the Classic Center will provide a meat and three vegetable meal which you can pay for when you go thru the line.) AA and Al-Anon Workshops, Open Meetings. Halloween Dance on Saturday Night. Double A Café (Open Mic).

#### **Hospitality:**

We will have a hospitality suite at the Classic Center. Our goal is to rival Macon, feeding you the best we can. Coffee set up will be at multiple stations served by the Classic Center.

**\*Current Number of Registrations:** 262 registrations as of this morning.

**\*Please register online at [aageorgia.org](http://aageorgia.org) or at our Registration Table!**

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your 65<sup>th</sup> Prepaid Chairperson.

### **AREA OFFICERS REPORTS**

#### **Alternate Delegate—Debi K**

#### **2018 Cluster Forum Themes**

“A.A. – A Solution for All Generations”

- a. **Today's Alcoholic:** Inclusion, Not Exclusion
  - b. **Participation in All of A.A.:** Is My Triangle Balanced?
  - c. **A.A. Technology:** Where Innovation Meets the Traditions
  - d. **Attraction Not Promotion:** A.A.'s Relation to the World
- Group Conscience:** The Guiding Force

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### **Cluster Forums 2018**

#### Southwest

Districts 1A, **1B**, 2A, 2B

Sat. March 24

Albany (flyer in Message)

#### West Central

Districts 6, 7A, 7B, **10A**, 10C, 10D, 11C

June

Flyer Due April 1

#### Northeast

Districts 11A, 11B, 16A, 16B, 16C, 16D, 16E, **16F**

July/August

Flyer Due June 1

#### Metro Atlanta

13A, 13B, 13D, 13E, 13F, **13G**, 13H, 13I, 13J, 13K

November

Flyer Due Aug. 1

Tracy has given her final report on the **64th GEORGIA STATE PREPAID CONVENTION** held October 12-15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 in MA-CON at the Macon Marriott City Center. The theme was: "PRESERVING OUR FUTURE" WITH UNITY, SERVICE, RECOVERY AND THE "STEPS – TRADITIONS – PROGRAM – FELLOWSHIP". The Committee did an excellent job in choosing great speakers and activities (kayaking and golf). The hospitality room was amazing. I want to thank the Committee again for a great job!

**Out next Prepaid Convention is Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> at the Classic Center in Athens.** Jim T. has given his report and updates on the 65<sup>th</sup> Prepaid. We toured the facility in Mid-December. The renovations completed at the Classic Center are beautiful and it will be the perfect setting for our Prepaid. Registration is available at the tables out in the lobby or online. Register early!!.

### **Area 16 Functions (through May 2018)**

**Corrections Certification Training**-Macon GSSA Office-Sat. **Jan 27** -8:00 AM -12:00PM

**SE Delegates Get-Together**-Westin Perimeter- **Feb. 2- 4**

**Southwest Cluster Forum** - Liberty Baptist Church, Albany-**March 24** -8:30 Registration

**DCM Pre-Conference Meeting** -Macon Marriott-**April 7**-11:00Am- 3:00 PM

**68<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference**- New York-**April 22-28**

**Georgia AA Service Assembly**- Macon Marriott- **May 18-20**

Please see our Area 16 and Statewide Functions in 2018 list for a complete listing of events in our area.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

**Secretary—Joan M**

Attendance at January 2018 Assembly

DCMs	43
Alternate DCMs	29
District Secretary/Treasurers	10
GSRs	242
Alternate GSRs	68
Group Secretary/Treasurers	38
Grapevine Reps	12
Treatment Reps	4
Corrections Reps	13
Communications Reps	4
PI/CPC Reps	11
Archives Reps	7
Members-at-large	32
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>513</b>

We have updated GSSA Service Manuals and 2018 GSSA Directories available today. Please take the time to check that the information listed in the Directory is correct. You can see me after the meeting to fill out a form to change your information, or you can go online to change that information. Both the Service Manual and Directory are available online. Tamara updates the Directory online once a month.

Group information can be updated online by using one of the following forms: New Group Registration Form, Existing Group Meeting Change Form, or the Existing Group Trusted Servants Update Form. You can find these online at [aageorgia.org](http://aageorgia.org), on the homepage under the "Find a Meeting" tab.

Please send your District/Zone Minutes to [districtminutes@aageorgia.org](mailto:districtminutes@aageorgia.org). On our website, click on the "Service" tab, Area 16 Office Committee, then Secretary. The link will be on the left-hand side.

DCMs: GSSA's preferred form of communication with you is via email. Each of you have a district email box accessible at [dis-](mailto:dis-)

## **THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA / PAGE 12**

[trict\\_@aageorgia.org](mailto:trict_@aageorgia.org). Please check regularly as information is sent to you which we then ask you to pass on to your district.

Thank you for your participation.

### **Treasurer Report—Rusty L**

In 2017 we started off good, but things took a turn towards the end of the year. Overall we ended up with a net income, but much of that is based on savings not contributions.

The Miscellaneous budget is \$3200 over budget due to an additional \$4000 sent to GSO to cover our Delegates' actual Conference expenses. Initially we sent \$1700 to cover the bill sent us by GSO. At the end of each year we evaluate our finances, and if available, we send additional money to cover our actual expenses. In November, the DCMs voted to send the additional \$4000. This extra money is not budgeted for. When we do send it, it shows up on the Miscellaneous line.

Most "Actual" expenses are under the budgeted amount due to us moving Prepaid expenses from the GSSA Budget to the Prepaid Budget in September.

Due to us controlling operations and literature expenses, we remained in the black for 2017. Congratulations!

Eight months in 2017 had lower contributions than in 2016. While we had projected a 3.25% increase in contributions for 2017, actual group contributions were about \$7400, or 5% below contributions in 2016. Prepaid contributions were level. When you go back to your home groups, please consider GSSA in supporting the services your DCMs voted to budget for this year.

Contributions to GSO from Area 16 came from 54% of our groups. Contributions to GSSA came from 53% of our groups.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Ad hoc report on Roll Calls—Chuck H., Chair**

#### **MOTION:**

**"I move that we take a roll-call of eligible voters at the beginning of every business meeting"**

The Ad Hoc Committee on the Motion was made up of Beth B. (DCM for Zone 2 B), Chuck H. (DCM for 13 B) who served as Chair, Frank M. (DCM for 5 A), and George S. (DCM for 13 G). On behalf of the committee, we would like to thank our Delegate, Rick M., for appointing us, and thank you for allowing us to be of service.

The Ad Hoc Committee was in favor of the motion.

Our committee met several times over the past months, by conference call and in person, to discuss the motion.

The motion was made following a perceived discrepancy in the number of people voting on a previous motion. Even though these discrepancies were resolved, when the vote was held for Delegate and it started with a roll-call of the D.C.M.s to announce how many eligible voters were present, it was apparently felt that this would be a good way to begin every business meeting.

The committee went through the Georgia AA Service Manual to review the current voting procedures.

On page 14, we discussed that the "Seating of the Assembly Business Meeting" requires visitors to sit to the rear of the D.C.M.s and G.S.R.s to assist the rostrum in identifying the voting members. This seems to be something that is not currently followed, and might address some of the concerns this motion addresses. Changes in the seating arrangements are left "to the discretion of the Office Committee".

On page 15, the manual makes it clear that the goal is "One Group – One Vote". The procedures for voting privileges allow only G.S.R.s or their duly elected and registered alternates to vote at Assembly meetings.

We noted that on page 29, where it details the "Election Procedure and Voting", there is a provision for a roll-call of the D.C.M.s to stand for nomination for Delegate and Alternate Delegate, but there is no requirement for a roll-call of eligible voters prior to voting. This roll-call is also not included in the "Third Legacy Procedure" on the following pages. The decision to do the roll-call of eligible voters prior to the election of the Delegate seemed to be that of the Chairperson.

After much discussion, we decided that this motion is more appropriate as a change to our Georgia AA Service Manual, rather than just a suggested change in policy.

We considered how this change might affect the still suffering alcoholic. Our Area Assembly is a business meeting, and while folks might like to sit with other folks they know, it is important that we conduct AA's business in an orderly way. There really is

something “spiritual” about seeing this many drunks in a room making a decision.

We are all in favor of the motion. We suggest adding the wording, “There will be a roll-call of eligible voters at the beginning of every business meeting.” We recommend that this be placed at the end of the section on “Seating Of The Assembly Business Meeting” (on page 14) since this is where the Georgia AA Service Manual discusses identifying the voting members.

Thank you again for allowing us to be of service.

### **Discussion regarding this motion:**

Tom R., DCM 16D—If we do this at the start of a meeting, and I have a GSR in my zone who registered on Saturday, and is eligible to vote, but comes in this business meeting 20 minutes after I have given you a figure. Do we have to do this process all over again because that number is no longer correct?

Chuck H., Ad hoc Chair—No. We would just do the roll call of eligible voters at the beginning of the meeting. The number of people in the room who are eligible to vote may go up or down based on people going to the restroom, smoking, etc. That’s not what this is about. It’s trying to get an idea of how many people are here and identifying the people who are eligible to vote.

Tom R—My understanding from the committee, and when this was raised, was that that happened because we wanted to know if the percentage was correct in terms of whether or not the vote passed. If your number changes, your percentage is inaccurate anyway.

Ernie M., Chairperson—I believe a lot of that came about because when it was being looked at, we used registered GSRs, registered alternate GSRs, and we did not know what number of those alternate GSRs were filling in for GSRs. In this motion, and what you’re asking, gives the DCM in that roll call the total number of eligible votes that DCM will report. If he has an alternate and a GSR from the same group, he’s only counting one vote from that group. That will give this body a more accurate figure than what we currently have.

Aaron W., Alternate DCM, 13J—I tried to check my zone’s folder today at 8:59 to verify registered GSRs and alternates, but was denied access to it. It would have been helpful for me to verify those registered.

Ernie M—We will try to make sure that information is available to you.

Amy S., GSR Greenhouse Group, Norcross—Clarification. What we are talking about has nothing to do with the roll call. It is not about the bodies in the room. It is only about the registered eligible votes per district that the DCM is going to give in the roll call.

Ernie M—Correct.

No further discussion.

Motion tabled to be voted on at Assembly in May.

### **Review of Assembly Procedures**

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

Grapevine—Robert M., Chair, Susan D., Co-chair

PI/CPC—Maxwell S., Chair, Micah G., Co-chair

Archives—Fred I., Chair, Mike S., Co-chair

Communications—Diane M., Chair, Chuck H., Co-chair

Co-editor—Tom R.

Show of hands

All in favor

### **Bids for the 2020 Prepaid Convention**

Requirements for bidding for a Prepaid Convention read by Area Secretary.

Gary H., DCM District 10D, accompanied by other District 10 DCMs:

We would like to put in a bid for the 67<sup>th</sup> Prepaid Convention to be held at Callaway Resort and Gardens, October 16-20, 2020.

There are 500 rooms available at the Mountain Creek Inn with rates starting at \$125/night, the Lodge and Spa with rates from \$189/night, and the Cottages with rates from \$330/night.

Eight restaurants are on the property with meals ranging from \$12 and up, plus many restaurants in nearby Pine Mountain.

The Mountain Creek Inn Complex has a 17,000-foot area to hold our meetings with breakout rooms available.

Callaway offers plenty of outside activities including hiking, golf, boating, fishing, and a new treetop zip line experience. There will also be complimentary passes to the Gardens for overnight guests.

If you attended the 2012 or the 59<sup>th</sup> Prepaid, you know how great the facilities are. Plus, many have been remodeled.

At our May Assembly, the GSRs will be asked to accept or reject this bid.

### **General Sharing**

## **THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA / PAGE 14**

Armando C., DCM District 17—I would like to invite everyone to the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Linguistic District #17. It will be held April 1, 2018 at 3330 Chestnut Drive, Doraville, GA 30340. The celebration begins at 2pm. As always, meals and music will be provided.

Aaron W., Alternate DCM 13J—Concerning contributions. Instead of focusing on groups fighting over 5% here or there, our zone focuses on the groups that are not participating. That has increased participation as well as contributions in our zone. You can see this in our financial reports. I challenge DCMs, alternate DCMs and GSRs to reach out to dark groups and expand the very core, the base of our contributions.

Ernie M., Chairperson—DCMs can review the financial report to determine which groups are contributing to GSSA and the Pre-paid.

Tom R., DCM 16D—Clarification. When the manual calls for 2/3 acceptance on a vote, is that 2/3 of the vote, or 2/3 of the eligible voters?

Ernie M—It is 2/3 of the total number of people that cast the vote.

Tom R—If you know how many people are eligible to vote but they don't all vote, what does that do to your percentage? You need to know how many people cast a vote.

Ernie M—The motion is asking is how many eligible votes are in the room. If we have 300 hundred people in the room and there are 300 votes, with 200 in favor, that is the 2/3 majority. If we have 300 people in the room eligible to vote, and only 275 vote, then our 2/3 percentage will be on the 275, not the 300.

John R., DCM District 9—Some of our GSRs are interested in going back to 8 cluster forums per year. A budget matter came up yesterday regarding emergency funds to spend. We are below our normal contributions currently. If we want to incur more expenses, we need to increase our contributions to GSSA. If we want to spend money, we need to have money to spend.

Chris N., GSR 16B—Motion to close.

Ernie M—Others at the microphone will have the chance to speak prior to considering motion to close.

Frank S., GSR White Bluff Group, Savannah—Re: Group contributions and participation. We used to encourage groups here to participate in “June Appreciation Month”, with special contributions going to GSO, and in “November Gratitude Month”, where we encouraged a special contribution to the State Office. My home group still does that and maybe others would like to consider doing this.

Carlton, GSR Sunset Group, 13J, Smyrna—Second the motion to adjourn.

Ernie M—There is one more person to share before considering the motion to adjourn.

Phil G., DCM 10C—Is there a protocol for abstentions in voting?

Ernie M—No. It is just a vote not counted.

Phil G—Comment: I think it's the DCMs responsibility to counsel and help all the GSRs. This morning I contacted all my GSRs that I knew were going to be present here, informing them to be in their seats, registered and ready to go at 9AM. It's the DCM's responsibility to herd GSRs and counsel them and guide them. That is our service—to guide the GSRs.

Ernie M—Accept motion and second to adjourn.

All in favor of adjourning.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

# **SOUTHWEST CLUSTER FORUM**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 2018**

**REGISTRATION 8:30 AM PROGRAM 9:00 AM  
LUNCH TO FOLLOW**

**LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH**

**1109 LIBERTY EXPRESSWAY ALBANY, GEORGIA  
(JUST SOUTH OF HOLLY DRIVE ON U.S. 19)**



**(YOU WILL BE THE ONE HAVING FUN ... IF YOU COME)**

**THEME: A.A. — A SOLUTION FOR ALL GENERATIONS**

**PRESENTATION TOPICS:**

**TODAY'S ALCOHOLIC: INCLUSION, NOT EXCLUSION**

**PARTICIPATION IN ALL OF A.A. — IS MY TRIANGLE BALANCED?**

**A.A. TECHNOLOGY: WHERE INNOVATION MEETS THE TRADITIONS**

**ATTRACTION NOT PROMOTION: A.A.'S RELATION TO THE WORLD**

**GROUP CONSCIENCE: THE GUIDING FORCE**

**(FEEL FREE TO BRING SIDE DISHES AND DESSERTS!!)**



# 65<sup>th</sup> Georgia Prepaid Convention

October 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> 2018

The Classic Center: 300 N Thomas Street Athens, GA 30601

Hosted By District 16B



## Host Hotels:

### **Hilton Garden Inn:**

390 E. Washington St. Athens,  
GA 30606 | 706-353-6800

### **Holiday Inn Athens:**

197 E. Broad St. Athens, GA  
30606 | 706-549-4433

### **Holiday Inn Express:**

513 W. Broad St. Athens, GA  
30606 | 706-546-8122

\*Request the Georgia State Prepaid  
Convention room rate when



## AA Speakers:

Clif G. - Oklahoma City, OK  
Korbyn B. - Springfield, MO  
Tammy Z. - Humble, TX  
Kristina W. - San Anselmo, CA  
Bill S. - Roswell, GA

## Al-Anon Speaker:

Lori G. - Oklahoma City, OK

*"A.A. - A Solution for All Generations"*

## 65<sup>th</sup> Georgia Prepaid Convention: October 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> 2018

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name for Nametag: \_\_\_\_\_ City, St, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Group: \_\_\_\_\_ Sobriety Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check affiliation: AA\_\_\_ Al-Anon\_\_\_ Alateen\_\_\_

Check if you are interested in the following events: (more information will be provided to you)

Golf\_\_\_Poker Run\_\_\_Fun Run\_\_\_Yoga\_\_\_Open Mic\_\_\_UGA/FL Game Viewing\_\_\_

Please let us know of any special needs:

Wheelchair\_\_\_ Sight\_\_\_ Hearing\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Mail Completed Form to:**

65th Prepaid Convention, District 16B, P.O. Box 7082, Athens, GA 30604

**Out-of-State registration fee:** AA & Al-Anon, \$25; Alateen, \$10

Cash or checks only. Make checks payable to 65th GA Prepaid Convention.

For additional information, e-mail us at [65thPrepaid@aageorgia.org](mailto:65thPrepaid@aageorgia.org)

**Register Online** at: <http://www.aageorgia.org/georgia-prepaid-convention.html>