

Georgia State Service Assembly
Business Meeting Minutes
Sunday, January 19, 2020

Pending Approval at the May 2020 BUSINESS MEETING

Delegate's Sharing -Georgia State Service Assembly- Jan. 19, 2020

Good morning, my name is Debi Keane. It is an honor to serve as your Panel 70 Area 16 Delegate. I want to welcome each of you to our January Assembly! If you are a new GSR stand up. Thank you! New Welcome to all our new DCMs and Committee Chairs and Co-chairs who will be introduced later in the business meeting. We also have a new member of our Office Committee, Jim Turner, Area Alternate Delegate. Welcome also to our first time Assembly Attendees! It really does take all of us so thank you for your service!

What's new from AAWS?

If you are a new DCM or GSR and have not received your kit from our General Service Office, there has been a backlog and they're working diligently to get these out. In the meantime, if you're interested, these are available online at aa.org. The links are included in the PowerPoint and will be available in this report when posted online and in the Georgia Message my report.

https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/en_GSR_list.pdf https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/f-153_DCM_Kit.pdf

What's new in Corrections – I am excited to be serving on the Conference Corrections Committee at the 70th General Service Conference. We had our first conference call last week. Our corrections desk at GSO received over 400 letters a month over the last quarter which illustrates the continuous need for our support of correctional facilities. GSO is working on generating a data file on all meetings in correctional facilities. I know that Ken and David have been requesting that information as well. You can send it to them at corrections@aageorgia.org .

GSO would also like input on language alternatives to the terms currently used in corrections literature which currently refers to incarcerated individuals as "Inmates". If you have served in a correctional facility or have been in a correctional facility and have any suggestions, please let me know so I can send it on to Brenda Brown at the GSO Corrections desk.

They will be adding a letter to professionals in the parole and probation field on Bridging the Gap to the *Corrections Workbook*. This will be a great tool for our District Corrections reps when working with these professionals in their communities.

AAWS publishing dept is working with the GV, who already has contracted with a vendor, to explore options for contracting with digital implementation of literature in prisons. Many of our correctional facilities are utilizing iPads rather than print media.

Finance

Finances during the first nine months of 2019. Final report is not yet available.

- Literature sales were 1.7% less than budget and 2.7% higher than last year. Gross profit from Literature was \$7,292,987.
 - It's interesting to note that there was a decrease in sales of *Daily Reflections* (9727 less books sold) which is available at no cost on the *Meeting Guide App*.
- Contributions were 4.9% higher than budget at \$6,197,296.
 - Online contributions accounts for 10.73% of total contributions.
- Total revenue was \$13,489,284 2.49% greater than budget; 3.76% greater than last year.
- Operating Expenses- were 9.94% greater than last year and 4.53% greater than budget.

Variances are mainly caused by contract reviews being over budget by \$119,192 and legal fees \$132,915 higher than budget. Contracted services were also over budget mainly due to ERP costs (transition from FNV). **AAWS is working on creating a policy for contract reviews and contracted services.**

How many of you are planning on attending the International Convention in Detroit?

I have a short video developed by GSO which is available on aa.org. Great video! Are you excited? The area around the convention center is beautiful. Detroit is ready to welcome us!

As of Oct 7, 2019, 21,000 people had registered (10,000 in the first 24 hours). Downtown hotels are filled but many area hotels still have rooms and shuttle buses will be available. Volunteer sign up will be available in late Feb/early March. This year there will be a General Service Booth along with the usual AAWS and Grapevine booths.

From Technology, Communications, and Services

Our LinkedIn Page is now live. The Alcoholics Anonymous World Services LinkedIn page provides information about A.A. at national professional events. This will provide information to our professional community. The LinkedIn page will be under the purview of the CPC desk to update and respond to requests.

Did you know that AAWS and AA GV Have YouTube Channels? The YouTube Channel is maintained by GSO for the US and Canada and includes the AA Preamble in the description. There are videos published in English, French, and Spanish that include PSAs and videos for professionals. The YouTube channel name is Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. They are working on getting all videos published on the A.A. website onto the YouTube Channel. There are currently 17 videos posted on the AA Grapevine YouTube Channel. These include audios of stories that were printed in the GV and a video from Class A Trustee Nancy McCarthy on using the GV for CPC work. There are also playlists included. I wanted to share one of the videos posted on our YouTube Channel that demonstrates how we are using technology to carry the message. This one is called “*Doors*”. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nXvcszOH60M&t=16s> Another way to carry our message!

Technology is changing the way AA communicates to suffering alcoholics and interacts with its members. *Box 4-5-9* is publishing a 3-part series on AA and Technology. Rick told you about the article on the Meeting Guide App in the Fall Issue of *Box 4-5-9*. The winter 2019 edition

highlights the National AA Technology Workshop (NAATW) which will be held in Bellevue, WA Sept. 11-13. NAATW- is based on the model of the National AA Archives workshop.

Also highlighted in the Winter 2019 of Box 4-5-9 is a grassroots organization, Technology in AA online forum (TIAA), with over 700 members currently participating. Any interested AA Member can sign up at tiaa-forum@aa.org. It is important that technology issues be addressed from the perspective of our members. TIAA has developed 12 statements of Technology which I believe support what our Area expressed during our “Your Voice Matters” activity at the May Assembly. TIAA believes in implementing technology where it supports our Primary Purpose, an informed group conscience as part of technology decision-making, and the use of technology to make information available.

We, in Area 16, do not differ on how we feel about Carrying the Message to the still suffering alcoholic. Keith D. member of NAATW steering committee stated of Bill W, “I’m willing to bet if he were alive today, he’d say “how can we use this to make AA more effective?”

Accessibility

To make the program of recovery available to all members, AAWS has published an American Sign Language Translation of *Alcoholics Anonymous* and *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*. It is available on DVD for those who need ASL translation. You can view a sample on aa.org.

ASL translation will be available at the 2020 International Convention and videos will be made available for sale post-convention.

Literature

As usual, there is a lot going on at the Literature desk including a revision of several pamphlets and developing an informational video on the General Service Office, the Grapevine, and General Service Structure. We are also working on a revision to the policy on the *Publication of Literature*. This revision comes from a floor action by the 69th General Service Conference to recommit the proposed AAWS Policy on Publication of Literature back to the Trustee’s literature committee with an updated proposed policy brought to the 70th General Service Conference.

We need your immediate input. The literature committee formed a study committee tasked with the important work of providing research and background to help facilitate discussion on some of the agenda items regarding changes and modifications to the Big Book. A piece of this research is looking into work created and produced by members or entities outside of the General Service Office and not been approved by the General Service Conference. Some of these items include:

- EZ Big Book produced by Hazelden;
- Manuscripts located online removing language around the word “God” from the first 164 pages; or
- Manuscripts located online removing gender specific language from the first 164 pages.

If you are familiar with any of these and have feedback you would like to share, please email me at delegate@aageorgia.org so I may correspond with Katie H. who is leading this work.

Publishing

I always get excited when I hear of new language translations of our big book! Translation in Lesotho, a South African language, is in the final stages. Plans for translations in other African and South American languages are in the works as well as updates to translations for Hungary and the Czech Republic.

AA Continues to grow around the world! The delegate who represented Zimbabwe at the Sub-Saharan zonal meeting in South Africa reported making progress with carrying the message into correctional facilities there. Meetings started in two prisons!!

Grapevine and LaVina

I mentioned earlier, Grapevine audio stories are now on the GV YouTube Channel. GV also signed a contract with an electronic vendor to get GV content into prisons. GV Subscriptions are down-if you do not subscribe to the GV, I would suggest you go online to aagrapevine.org and sign up. You can get the GV in print or digital media and it is a great tool for finding meeting topics and sharing with newcomers, treatment and detox centers, etc.

LaVina subscriptions are up for 2019 thanks to “local committee efforts and events”- Our own Chest of Hope initiative for the 2019 Spanish International Convention contributed to this increase! Thanks to those of you who purchased subscription certificates for our correctional facilities!

Archives

The Archives committee is looking for input from local A.A. Archivists in order to update the “Shared Experiences” section of the Archive Workbook. Contact Mike or David, our Archivists, at archives@aageorgia.org if you have any information you would like considered for inclusion.

Public Information

Our Membership Survey to provide current trends in AA membership which is due for an update. The most recent membership survey was completed in 2014. At the request of the trustees committee on PI, a survey professional from Duke University has been hired to review the current A.A. Membership survey methodology. Final report will be reviewed by the committee this month.

Treatment and Accessibilities

The Treatment and Accessibilities desk is currently collecting stories to update the pamphlet "AA for the Older Alcoholic". You can send to Richard and Karen at treatment@aageorgia.org and they will get the story to the Treatment/Accessibilities desk in NY.

A steady flow of calls continues to come to the treatment and accessibilities desk from people who are looking for inpatient treatment resources. Our treatment reps should update their local information, so it is readily available when a request is made.

Employment Opportunity

If you're ever interested in moving to New York to work at GSO, they are updating their file of applications for possible future openings for staff member positions. The qualifications are listed in the slide. (Minimum 6 years continuous sobriety; Service experience at group, possibly district and area; Business or professional experience; Excellent communication skills.) If interested, write the staffcoord@aa.org.

That was all the news from our Trustees' Committee and our General Service Office in NY, now what's happening in Area 16?

In May we received your input on the Communications audit. For those of you who were not present, we came up with four basic goals:

- **Be more effective in attracting and retaining those in need of recovery, the Professional Community, AA Members and improve public perception.**
 - You would like to have more guidance in order to Improve our efforts in working with the courts, as well as improvements to our website. and our website (Our web committee is working on this.)
- **Strengthen and unify our message-**
 - Again, you mentioned improving our website, providing guidance to our members on submitting stories to the Grapevine, and the need for additional speaker meetings.
- **Leverage our history to become more impactful communicators**
 - You expressed a need to host Archives workshops, increase the number of speaker meetings, and the possibility of creating podcasts.
- **Provide guidance in the use of social media and other interactive tools to more deeply engage the fellowship**
 - You expressed a need for our General Service Office to update *AA Guidelines on Technology*, host communications and Grapevine workshops, and the need for protecting our anonymity but still carrying the message.

If you look at many of the initiatives from our General Service Board, you can see how they support the recommendations from the Communications audit. The General Service Board updated their Strategic Plan in Nov. 2019 and their goals reflect the recommendations of the audit. We, in Area 16, have appointed an Action Planning committee to develop Action steps for our area to address your recommendations from the audit. They will be giving a progress report during the business meeting today and a final report in May.

A few updates and requests from our Area Committees- As mentioned early, GSO is developing a data base of all the correctional facilities where members of AA bring in an AA Meeting. Our corrections committee made this request to you at the Nov DCM Meeting. Please send this information to corrections@aageorgia.org. They would also like you to send contact information for district/zone/group corrections reps.

Our PI/CPC Committee continues to update its data base on local district/zone/group PICPC reps. Please send info to picpc@aageorgia.org.

Our Treatment/Accessibilities and Grapevine Committees would like to mirror what PICPC has done so please send info to treatment@aageorgia.org or grapevine@aageorgia.org.

The purpose of these data files is to improve communication. We need the name and contact information of a person in your District/Zone/or group we can contact if needed and provide new information as we receive it. We also understand that communication is a “two-way street” so we would like to hear from you. Please continue to send information and questions to our Area 16 email addresses.

Vote

Today we will vote on the motion to add a position creating an Armed Forces and Veterans Chairperson. The Ad Hoc Committee report is in the minutes from the September Assembly.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

We will also have reports from two Ad Hoc committee. One report will address the motion, “Return to eight Cluster Forms beginning in the 2021 calendar year.” The other will address the motion, “Move to electronic voting for GSSA elections.” These reports will be included in the minutes for the Area Business meeting which will be posted online under Service>Reports>Area Business Meeting Reports. They will also be available in the Georgia Message. Please share these reports with your members so they may make an informed group conscience for your vote at the May Assembly. I want to thank our trusted servants who committed their time to work on these committees and prepare the final reports and presentations.

The Conference Theme for 2020 is **A Clear Vision for you**. I can think of nothing better than a quote from p. 164 of our ‘Big Book’.

“Clear away the wreckage of your past. Give freely of what you find and join us. We shall be with you in the Fellowship of the Spirit, and you will surely meet some of us as your trudge the Road of Happy Destiny. May God bless you and keep you...until then.”

Thank you for the privilege of serving Area 16.

Please feel free to contact me at delegate@aageorgia.org

Rick gave special recognition to Harold W. for his dedicated service at 100 straight Georgia State Service Assemblies.

RECOGNITION OF PAST AREA OFFICERS – Harold I., past Treasurer, Patty L., past Delegate, past Secretary, Rusty L., past Treasurer, Glenda G., past Secretary, past Office Manager, Rebecca T. past Delegate, Joan M. past Secretary, David M. past Delegate, past Treasurer, Randy S. past Delegate

SEPTEMBER 2019 GSSA BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES APPROVED BY A SHOW OF HANDS.

66th Georgia Prepaid Convention Chairperson's Final report

First off, I'd like to thank District 5 and Area 16 for allowing me the privilege of serving as your chair for the 66th Georgia Prepaid

Convention. The event was held from Thursday through Sunday, October 17-20, 2019 at the Savannah Civic Center. The final registration count was 1540. The 3-year average prior to this convention set the budget at \$42,000. However, we knew that Savannah would be more expensive. We submitted a proposal to the office committee for \$56,660, which was \$14,660 over the 3-year average.

We were given the task of hosting a great convention, to be prudent with expenses, but most importantly, everyone should have fun. I believe we achieved that goal.

The final net expenses came to \$47,975 which is \$8625 below our proposal, and only \$5975 over the 3-year average, thus costing us \$31.15 per person.

The LCB did sell out, and it was fully self-supporting. Laura Lee B and Jane G did a fabulous job organizing that for us. The weather on Saturday prompted cancellation of the motorcycle poker run, and the boil was moved to the rear of the arena, but it didn't seem to dampen anyone's spirits, nor the fun.

Bobby O. had coffee started at 7am daily and he and his crew kept ample coffee flowing throughout the event. \$1400 worth of coffee and coffee supplies were returned on Sunday after the event closed.

Hospitality went smoothly thanks to the efforts of the groups in District 5 who took turns bringing food and offering great southern hospitality.

Karen J and Tom R were always there to ensure a smooth transition as each new hosting group arrived.

We offered 6 workshops on Friday and Saturday. Evelyn W and her crew did a spectacular job presenting a variety of topics, all of which were informative and very well attended.

The speakers came from across the country, and they all did an amazing job.

Dan R, our voice of the convention added an extra bit of fun before each speaker meeting by getting the sound crew to play a portion of "I Believe in Miracles", and everyone sang along. Before we placed the bid to host the prepaid in Savannah, we, the DCM's at the time, asked ourselves if there was enough unity in our district to pull this thing off. What we have found is that hosting the prepaid brought the unity that our district desperately needed. There were so many volunteers in every area, and everyone had such a great time. I've been asked to say what I think went well, and what I think we could have done better. Honestly, I have to say, I wouldn't change a thing. I believe that God was in this from the very start, and so was Betty Baker.

Thank you so much for allowing me the opportunity to grow with you in this beautiful program.
Respectfully Submitted,

Liz W.
Chairperson

67th GA Prepaid Convention Report **given by Joel D, Committee Chair**

All speakers have been selected. Liz W, Savannah GA; Brad S, West Palm Bch FL; Chris C, Frisco TX; Don L, Bellingham WA; John S, Atlanta GA; Teresa F, Van Nuys CA; Victor V, Springdale AZ; and Al-Anon, Tarcila F, Goodlettsville TN.

We are asking DCMs from District 10 to recommend Speaker Hosts from their zones and to direct their recommendations to Maggie - mam122995@gmail.com 404-428-3458.

When you register you can let us know if a headset is needed for Spanish Translation. Out of State Registration Fee is \$25.00, Alateen \$10.00.

Registration will need volunteers as we get closer and anyone interested can contact Alison – asmith12363@gmail.com 404-486-3140

Please tell people to write checks to 'Georgia Prepaid Convention'.

We will be collecting soft cover big books and staple free grapevines at the convention for Corrections.

There will be a Country BBQ Picnic at the Beach followed by one of the speakers. The picnic is a \$32 charge and must be prepaid by Sept 30, but anyone may come for the speaker meeting.

We will have golf for \$60 and must be prepaid by Sept 30.

There will be a Poker Run at no charge.

Other activities in the area include zipline, tennis, fishing, nature trails, birds of prey, butterfly center, horseback riding and more.

Room rates vary: Mountain Creek Inn \$124; Villa and Vacation Home \$189; Southern Pine Cottage \$164.50 one-bedroom, double two-bedroom. All room rates subject to state and local tax, \$5 state hotel fee and \$7.50 Resort Service Charge which includes 2 bottles of water per night, virtual concierge, enhanced wireless internet, access to golf, tennis, 9 restaurants, pool and beach area.

No charge for admission to Gardens if you arrive before check-in or on the day of check-out with paid room receipt. Complimentary Parking.

Rick announced that we would be taking nominations for our New Secretary and Treasurer in May.

Alternate Delegate's Report

January 2020 Assembly

Jim Turner

Topics Covered:

1. 2020 Cluster Forums: Theme, Regions, Locations, Timing.
2. 67th Prepaid Convention: Callaway Gardens
3. Area 16 (Georgia) Functions list: up to May Assembly.
4. 2022 Prepaid Convention Bid Process

1. The theme for the General Service Conference for this year is: "2020: A Clear Vision for You". This theme will also be used for the 2020 Cluster Forums and Prepaid Convention in Area 16. Subtopics include: Recovery-Who is missing in our rooms? Unity-Practicing our Principles, Service-Keeping AA Relevant, and Attraction through Action. This year's Cluster Forums will be held in the following regions in Georgia: Southwest (District 2B, Tifton, March 21st), West Central (District 10C), Northeast (District 16B, Athens), and Metro Atlanta (District 13E).
2. The 67th Georgia Prepaid Convention will be held October 15th – 18th, 2020 at Callaway Resort & Gardens in Pine Mountain. Who has registered for Callaway so far? Registration forms are available at the Prepaid Convention table outside the meeting room or online at aageorgia.org. Please register if you have not done so – this helps the Host Committee with their planning purposes.
3. Events scheduled for Area 16 and surrounding areas include:

Corrections Certification GSSA Office	January 25th Macon, 8:00-12:00
Hilton Head Mid-Winter Conference	January 24-26 th
SE Region Delegates Get-Together	February 7-9 Crowne Plaza, Atlanta Airport
Unity Weekend (16C & 16D)	February 28-29 Lawrenceville, GA
Flint River Round Up	March 13-15 Albany, GA

G.A.L.S.	March 13-15 Toccoa, GA
SW Cluster Forum	March 21 st in Tifton
Atlanta Men's Workshop	March 20-22 Rock Eagle Eatonton, GA
Pre-Conference Meeting	April 4 th Macon, GA
70 th General Service Conference	April 19-25 Rye Brook, NY
Marietta Spring Round Up	May 1-3 Marietta, GA
Spanish Speaking Convention	June 6-7 Marietta, GA
Next Georgia State Service Assembly:	Macon Marriott City Center May 15-17, 2020

4. We will be accepting bids for the 69th Prepaid Convention this morning at the business meeting. In the Georgia Service Manual (p.34), it states: "In January, the DCM makes his/her district's bid for the convention two years in advance. In this presentation should be included the exact dates, location, name of hotels or motels, rates of lodging and meals, capacities of auditoriums and other pertinent information including the desirability of holding the convention in their particular district."

Jim Turner
 Area 16 Alternate Delegate
Alt_delegate@aageorgia.org
 706-540-8814

SECRETARY REPORT – TRACY M.

Attendance Report

DCMS	41
ALT. DCMS	32

DISTRICT SECRETARY/TREASURERS	2
GSRS	144
ALT. GSRS	60
GROUP SECRETARY/TREASURERS	15
GRAPEVINE REPS	7
TREATMENT FACILITY REPS	13
CORRECTIONAL FACILITY REPS	11
COMMUNICATIONS	2
PI/CPC REPS	16
ARCHIVE REPS	2
MEMBERS	38
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TOTAL	383

GROUP INFORMATION

Please remember to keep your group information updated on the website and for the service directory. this can be done on our website by going to aageorgia.org and clicking on the group meeting change form and the group information form, both under the find a meeting tab.

Meeting Guide App

The meeting information you update on aageorgia.org loads directly to the Meeting Guide App.

DISTRICT MINUTES

Remember to email your district minutes to districtminutes@aageorgia.org. GSR's can also email their business meeting minutes to their DCM's.

GSSA BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

The Minutes from today's Business Meeting are available online before the first of the following month. They are also available in the next AA Message.

DISTRICT E-MAIL

Our preferred form of communication with you is thru your district email box accessible by going to: district_____@aageorgia.org.

* Don't forget our **Chat Box** on the aageorgia.org website.

Thank you for helping us carry the message with accurate information.

Treasurer's Report – Christy G.

INCOME				
	2020 Budget	2019 Actual	2019 Budget	2019 Difference
Ordinary Income	\$171,735.67	\$179,186.34	\$166,720.53	\$12,465.81
Literature Income and Interest	\$110,575.00	\$101,263.29	\$115,650.00	(\$14,386.71)
Total Income	\$282,310.67	\$280,449.63	\$282,370.53	(\$1,920.90)

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EXPENSES				
	2020 Budget	2019 Actual	2019 Budget	2019 Difference
COMMITTEES	\$33,060.00	\$24,543.27	\$30,360.00	\$5,816.73
ASSEMBLY	\$43,276.44	\$38,998.52	\$43,276.44	\$4,277.92
OPERATIONS	\$113,352.18	\$113,752.01	\$111,786.04	(\$1,965.97)
LITERATURE	\$92,612.50	\$78,223.00	\$97,162.50	\$18,939.50
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$282,301.12	\$255,516.80	\$282,584.98	\$27,068.18

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EXPENSES BY COMMITTEE				
	2020 Budget	2019 Actual	2019 Budget	2019 Difference
OFFICE COMMITTEE	\$10,680.00	\$4,613.61	\$8,180.00	\$3,566.39
PI/CPC	\$1,890.00	\$1,075.85	\$1,890.00	\$814.15
COMMUNICATIONS	\$5,930.00	\$1816.23	\$5,930.00	\$4,113.77
TREATMENT	\$3,140.00	\$1,870.79	\$2,940.00	\$1,069.21
CORRECTIONS	\$3,490.00	\$2,758.41	\$3,490.00	\$731.59
ARCHIVES	\$2,490.00	\$3,069.88	\$2,490.00	(\$579.88)
GRAPEVINE	\$1,640.00	\$924.69	\$1,640.00	\$715.31
MISCELLANEOUS	\$3,800.00	\$8,413.81	\$3,800.00	(\$4,613.81)

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TOTALS				
	2020 Budget	2019 Actual	2019 Budget	2019 Difference
TOTAL INCOME	\$282,310.67	\$280,449.63	\$282,370.53	(\$1,920.90)
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$282,301.12	\$255,516.80	\$282,584.98	\$27,068.18
DIFFERENCE	\$9.55	\$24,932.83	(\$214.45)	\$25,147.28

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AREA 16 GEORGIA STATE SERVICE ASSEMBLY	
	
GSSA RESERVE FUND	
Current Reserve Fund Balance (as of 12/31/2019)	\$178,870.89
Operating Expenses (as of 12/31/2019)	\$177,293.80
Months of Operating Expense (as of 12/31/2019)	1.01

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PREPAID CONVENTION				
	3-year Rolling Average	2019 Budget	2019 Actual	2019 Difference
66 th -Savannah	\$42,324.96	\$56,660.00	\$47,882.10	\$8,777.90
2019 Total Contributions Reserve Fund Balance (as of 12/31/2019)			\$41,663.68 \$99,682.43	
Number of Conventions per Reserve (based on a 3-year rolling average)			2.36	

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AREA 16 GEORGIA STATE SERVICE ASSEMBLY	
	
• HOW TO MAKE ONLINE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR ASSEMBLY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1. Go to aageorgia.org. • 2. Click on Contribute. • 3. Click on Contribute again. • 4. Check I acknowledge that I am an A.A. member. • 5. Check I am contributing for Jan-May-Sep Assembly • 6. Enter Amount. • 7. Enter Email. • 8. Click Submit. 	

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Thank You for allowing me to serve as your Area 16 Treasurer. I am having FUN!

Old Business

Ad hoc Committee Report

Christy G., Chair

Read by Rust L.

Ad hoc Committee Members

Christy G, Chair-Area 16 Treasurer

Debi K-Area 16 Delegate

Jim T-Area 16 Alternate Delegate

Michaela Mc-Zone 13A DCM

Rick L-Zone 14C DCM

Rusty L-Area 16 Past Treasurer

Motion: I move that the [number of] Cluster Forums be returned to Eight beginning in the 2021 calendar year.

John R, Alternate GSR, Swainsboro Group, District 9.

First a little history. 2014 was a particularly bad financial year for GSSA. That year, we had a budget deficit of over \$22,000. Because of that deficit and in addition to cuts made to operations in 2014, several budget changes were made for 2015, including reducing the number of Cluster Forums from 8 to 4 per year, reducing the mileage reimbursement rate for Area 16 trusted servants from \$0.32 to \$0.25 per mile, and instituting a maximum of \$100 for mileage reimbursement per trip. Those changes, among others, allowed GSSA to come back into financial equilibrium in 2015 and since, with budget surpluses most years.

Because of the method for budgeting Group Contributions, and because 2014 was such a bad year, the rate of budgeted Group Contributions has only slowly increased, even though Actual Contributions have been fantastic. Your contributions have been so awesome that we now have a fully funded one-year prudent reserve. Given normal increases in operational costs that must be accounted for in the budget, significant increases in individual line-items in the budget have not been possible, even though we have had surpluses each year.

This *ad hoc* Committee report will address the motion in the context of that history and our current and projected financial situation.

Cluster Forums are not addressed in the Area 16 Service Manual, so Assembly action is not required to make changes to the number of Cluster Forums.

It would add \$4800 to the budget to add 4 Cluster Forums-\$100 in maximum mileage reimbursement x 12 attendees x 4 additional Cluster Forums. The short answer is, GSSA is projected to have enough money in the 2021 budget to cover the additional cost of increasing the number of Cluster Forums from 4 to 8 per year. Having said that, it is important that, if that change is made, other financial changes should also be considered.

Our Area 16 trusted servants travel quite a bit in service to us. At the current rate of \$0.25 per mile and with a cap of \$100 per trip, the cost of many trips is not currently covered in the budget, especially for Office Committee members who don't have an alternate to attend expected events. Adding 4 Cluster Forums to the schedule each year at our current mileage reimbursement rate of \$0.25 per mile and at our current maximum reimbursement rate of \$100 per trip (which comes to 400 miles per trip) will potentially become a financial challenge for some, and no one should be prohibited from being a trusted servant in AA because of a lack of financial means.

Our recommendation

Therefore, this Committee recommends that the Assembly not vote to add 4 additional Cluster Forums into the budget for 2021. Given the projection that the money will be available, we suggest that the Assembly allow the Budget and Finance Committee to work them into the

budget for 2021, in addition to updating other budget numbers, reducing or eliminating some items that are sparsely or never used, increasing the mileage reimbursement rate, and removing the maximum mileage limitation, if possible. Then, the DCMs, who have budgetary authority in Area 16, can vote to approve or amend the budget for 2021. We believe that all of these changes are possible if Group Contributions continue at the current rate. And, if Group Contributions remain at or above budget projections, Cluster Forums could remain at 8 per year for the foreseeable future.

Thank you for allowing us to be of service to Area 16.

Discussion

Pierce, DCM 13D- How much does it cost per person per Cluster Forum if we go to 8?

Rusty- The Area standpoint the Budget number is \$1200.00. We send 12 people. Our Office Committee, Tamera from the State Office, and Our Area Service Committee's Chair or Co-Chair. I don't know the actual cost per individual Cluster Forum but the Budgeted amount would be \$1200.00.

Joan M., Alternate GSR; Chapter 3 Group, District 13A-I have been lucky to be Grapevine Chair In the past. In my first year in that capacity, I went to all 8 Cluster Forums because I didn't have a co-chair that was able to attend. I was so excited to go to all eight and the enthusiasm I saw across the State was great. It gave an opportunity for the Cluster areas to meet the people in the Office Committee and Service Committee Chairs. Not every group has the funding to send their Group Representative to Assembly. It was a great way to get the information on Service and meet their Area Trusted Servants. The Unity in those Clusters when they put on skits and work together is a great opportunity for them and the people who attend them as well.

John R. Alternate GSR, Swainsboro Group, District 9- I think I understand our Ad Hoc Committee saying it is economically feasible for 8 Cluster Forums but we need to adjust the mileage and all for Officers. This could be done if we continue our contributions from our groups. I'm getting the sense that I need to go back to my group and ask them to continue contributing and when we can because when you look at the map, there I am in the central part of the state and there will be no Cluster Forums within 100 miles of us this year. It has been that way the last 3 years. That is one of the reasons this motion was originally made. I would like to encourage all GSR's to go back to your home groups and ask that we continue to contribute to GSSA at the rate we have been doing and hopefully a little more.

Karen A. District 11B- I have a question so that my GSR's can be informed. Do we have an idea on a District level what a cluster forum cost, not just for the Office Committee, but what it would cost the District? Our District is part of about 6 Districts that are grouped together to do a Cluster Forum now. If we move to 8 Cluster Forums a year how would that change or be affected.

Rick M. Chairperson; The answer to the first part of your question is we don't keep track of what it cost the Districts. For the second part of your question I'll ask Rusty to answer.

Rusty L. – The Clusters are made up of Districts within the State. The Clusters are already defined. For example, 1 and 2 are a Cluster, 3,4, and 5 is a Cluster, Metro Atlanta is a Cluster. That does not change. What happens is that 4 Clusters do Forums this year, then the 4 remaining Clusters do Forums next year.

Mitch M.- Treasurer 7B, Byron Warehouse Group- I think this is just like an alcoholic, give me a double. Why are we going from 4 to 8? I like what Rusty said about letting the Budget Committee make a decision on whether we could afford it or not. Why not 5 or 6 or if we can

afford 8 then do 8? I think it should be a Budget Committee decision on how we do that. I want to point out that some of our Trusted Servants don't have an Alternate. Consider the added work and cost of 8 instead of 4.

Rick M. We have some information relative to a previous question.

Jim T., Alternate Delegate- The Cluster Forum regions did not change we just split them into odd and even years. So that you can get an idea of which districts are involved in which regions this may be helpful. The Southeast is 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4, 5B, 5C, and 5D. The East Central Cluster is 8, 9, 12A, and 12B. The Northwest Cluster is 10A, 10B, 14A, 14B, 14C, 14D, 15A, and 15B. District 17 is our entire State. The Southwest Cluster is 1A, 1B, 2A, and 2B. West Central Cluster is 6, 7A, 7B, 10A, 10C, 10D, and 11C. North East is 11A, 11B, 16A, 16B, 16C, 16D, 16E, and 16F. The Metro Atlanta are all of the 13 zones, through K. I hope that helps you understand the breakout of them.

Susan G. DCM 16B- It's been my experience that the Cluster Forums are not very well attended. Every one I've ever been to had 15 or 20 people. The State people are there and that is budgeted for the State. There is no budget for the Districts. Our District doesn't have a budget for the Cluster Forums. We are hosting the August on for the North East this year and I don't have a budget yet. I've asked the other Districts if they would be willing to contribute to a budget. Then we are supposed to be self-supporting and they are not well attended it's going to end up costing us. So, the Districts are the ones absorbing the cost and 8 is a lot for all the Districts to be funding.

Paul G., GSR 10PM Group District 13E- What is a Cluster Forum?

Jim T.- It is the Alternate Delegate's sort of duty to facilitate with the Cluster Forums. They are sharing sessions designed to enhance and widen communication among members of AA, service and potential service people, and representatives of the Groups, Districts and the Area. There are seven Cluster Forums held each year in the different regions of the state. *

There is no registration fee. The expenses are covered by the Districts of each region and through the "basket" at the Forum.

The location and the agenda for the Forums are worked out jointly by the DCMs of each Forum. Flyers for the GA Message should be sent to the Area Office as soon as possible.

Amy B., DCM District 8- I appreciate Jim going over the map and going over what the District Clusters look like. I'd like to know if it's been re-considered that we re-look at this. I live in a situation where, to get to Eatonton from Statesboro is a long way and that's the geographic stretch that is District 8.

Rick M. I have to stop you just from a point of order. That's not what this motion is about. At general sharing you can bring that up.

Rick L. DCM 14C- We had the privilege of hosting one of these a couple of years ago. Our District spent somewhere around \$500.00 to provide food and make all the arrangements with the facility we held it at. We were fortunate that we had the support of other groups and Districts. We had between 70 and 80 people attend. It was an introduction to Service that I first saw at a Douglasville Cluster Forum a couple of years prior to that. You get an opportunity to meet the people that you would not meet if you don't come here. If you're interested at all in service it's a good place to get started. You get an introduction you can't get anywhere else. Our cost was somewhere between \$400.00 and \$500.00. We had support. It wasn't a back breaker. We're looking to host a Picnic this year and we're looking to spend even more so it's one of those things where we get an opportunity to be of service for the Area. I wish I had got involved even earlier.

Donna W., GSR Women's Group, Rome- I have a question according to one of the handouts on The North West GA District is scheduled to host a cluster forum in 2021. Will we be required to host one?

Jim T., - Of course not. Some of the Districts host them. Some do not. It depends a lot on finances and local situations. That's why we have all these districts that have opportunities. It's

important, I think, that the District that ends up hosting it gets support from the other Districts in that region. You should not have to do this by yourself. That's why we have these Clusters, these Regions that everybody is included. This should not fall completely on the wallet of one District.

Elaine, Wayne County Group, Jessup- I wonder if there is a correlation between the attendance at the Assemblies. I understand that it has kind of gone down in the last few years. I wonder if there is a correlation between that and the fact that we haven't had 8 cluster forums per year. Just a thought.

Bobby, Tucker Group, GSR- Did y'all come up with an estimated or recommended change to the cost per mile. This is a budget decision, right?

Rusty- We didn't address any of the other things because the motion was specific to cluster forums. What we did was look back at the history of the changes that were made in addition to the cluster forums trying to realize that we address all of them at once, knowing that if we increase the number of cluster forums without addressing potentially the other cost that are associated with going to a cluster forum for our Trusted Servants, then there could be a larger deficient there from a personal stand point.

Bobby- So they could go up as high as \$1200.00 or even \$2000.00 apiece. Theoretically they could be more than that when we start adjusting cost per mile and maximum reimbursement.

Rusty- Potentially so, yes. We are asking the Budget and Finance Committee to look at all of that.

Kim, DCM 12A, - This past June we put together a cluster forum, a collaborative effort between Districts 8, 9, and 12. We had 102 people attend that registered. We ended up forking out about \$340.00 for food and supplies. Each district contributed \$66.00 for a total of \$198.00 for us to break even. Between what we paid out and what came in was \$97.46. That's where we got the \$66.00. We gave \$100.00 to the Church. Someone had asked for a cost example.

Danny M. GSR, Area 5C- I move we table this.

Rick M., Area 16 Chairperson- I haven't gone over this. There's no comment, when there is call for a table, but there is required a second.

Warren M., GSR Men's Group, Triangle- I second.

Rick M., Area 16 Chairperson- All discussion will cease for right now and we are going to go to a vote as to whether or not to table this motion. All those in favor of tabling this motion. Tabling means we're just going to move this out to the next Assembly. It's just being tabled right now and we'll bring it up again at the next Assembly. It is in essence it's what I talked about in the beginning. This, being very important to your groups, you are probably going to want to take the report and what you learned here today back to your groups and talk about it and be prepared next Assembly to come back and discuss and then vote on it.

174 yes. All those opposed. 16 opposed. Motion is tabled.

Ad Hoc Report

Motion: "I make a motion that we move to electronic voting for GSSA elections"

Ad Hoc Committee: Brent C., District 7A, Chris M., District 1A; Chris M., District 8, and Jaki T., District 10A

In order to provide a recommendation to area 16 regarding the pending motion, this ad hoc committee also considered the following items: (1)

whether electronic voting adheres to the 12 traditions; (2) which areas of the Georgia 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 12 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, and ensuring all GSRs have access to devices.

To ensure all GSRs who attend assembly have access to voting, the committee agreed that although certain companies provide this service using cell phones and other similar electronic devices, not all GSRs will have an electronic device capable of electronic voting. This committee suggests those that do not have such electronic devices could still vote by paper ballot.

Early on in this process the committee learned that should Area 16 purchase an electronic voting system, in 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 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 hardware required, whether a product demonstration was available and how the product ensures accuracy. The committee sought nine vendors and received five. 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 \$500.00 annually (by cell phone and similar electronic devices supplemented with paper ballots) and \$3000.00-\$6000.00 annually for handheld rented clickers.

Currently, there are approximately 775 groups in Area 16 and over 500 members attend GSSA, of which 300-325 vote (the ten-year voting average is 263 voters); put into perspective the cost of the electronic voting is approximately \$1.75-20.00 per voter or \$1-12.00 per attendee. Due to the instantaneous recording of votes these products offer, the electronic voting system has the ability to take a 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, Rick Mc., to reach out to other areas for any experience they may have with electronic voting. About a dozen 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. Some delegates included background information. Notably, many areas have far smaller attendance at their respective assemblies than we see in the 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 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 DCMs receive and distribute the devices, and are then responsible for the retrieval and return of all devices to the Communications Committee.

Discussion:

Janet B.GSR Rowland Street Group, District 13D- There seems to be a large difference in the cost of \$1.75 and \$20.00 per voter.

Chris M.- Actually \$1.75 per voter is using an online system where everybody uses their smart phones, tablets, or I pad. You would go to a website and put a password in. It's cheaper but you have to provide your own electronic devices. The GSR's that do not have electronic devices would still vote by paper ballot. The most expensive price is the Company that quoted us the highest price to rents clickers. For renting clickers, the cost is between \$3,000 and \$6,000 dollars per year.

Janet B- So which are we doing.

Chris M.- That's not for us to decide. That would be up for the Communications Committee to decide.

Janet B.- So we are just voting whether or not to do this. Not what the cost would be.

Chris M.- That's correct.

Hunter P., DCM 13G- It's clearly advantageous to use the hand held smart phone electronic voting. I'd say probably 90 percent of us have smart phones, we would need to accommodate those that don't. The cost is ten times more for that hand held clicker. There's the possibility that we could dual track this while we are getting it .So that the sense of ,it's not going to work or it's not accurate, we could run a dual track where we are doing the electronic and the paper voting for a few times to make sure that we are on line. I would also say that I appreciate GSSA leading the way. We recently just voted to adopt electronic payments for contributions at our

group and one of the big reasons why was because the State allows it. This sort of innovation is appreciated.

Jon A., DCM 5B, I think this was stated a few years back when this was brought up before. I'm kind of curious how we can be talking about spending money on voting when we can't afford to add back Cluster Forums. One other comment that somebody brought up to me was that if we cut out the breaks, we would have more time for the still suffering alcoholic.

Rusty L., Alternate DCM13A, I'm curious since 3 years ago the cost was 1,000 to 1,500 dollars for one of the nicer clicker systems and now it's gone to 11,000 it would seem that the cost is going to increase every year which will prohibit us from spending money on other things if we do this. In addition, this Assembly is evaluating adding 3 to 5 thousand dollars to the Budget for Cluster Forum cost, also considering the Area Workshops and outreach plans Debi mentioned earlier, we will be adding things to the budget every year. Adding additional cost for voting when the way we do it now works just fine; I would not be willing to bet that the vast majority of people go out and work with sick and suffering alcoholics. We do that here. We are sick and suffering. I just don't think this is necessary.

Christy G. Area 16 Treasurer- I'm one of those people that have been coming to Assembly for many years. I know that for 1 Assembly a year I can give up 2 extra hours for voting to choose our Trusted Servants to sit up there and do what I've asked them to do. It cost me nothing and my group asked me to do that. It's only one Assembly a year that we do that. To save me 2 hours will cost my Area 2000 Dollars is a little bit extreme. I'm also looking at people that don't have smart phones. We would be excluding people that are willing to serve in GSR positions to represent their groups, No one should be excluded from service. Thank you.

Denny M. GSR Don't Drink Liquor Club, 5C – I vote that we keep it the way it is. I like hearing, Ernie, Ernie, Ernie, Ernie, also if we go electronic the Russians might hack our Elections.

Don P., GSR, 4th Dimension Group, 16E- I don't know if I missed something. I'm not sure if we went to the electronic device how we would know that the votes came from the attendees in this room. That would be important because that would violate our whole voting process if it wasn't accurate. I really like the way we vote now. It's a little bit of the excitement of coming to Assembly.

Chris M. The Company that does the online voting with electronic devices, smart phones, tablets, have 3 levels of security. The medium and the high level insure where they are located. That they are not voting by proxy. That they are not duplicating votes. That the Russians are not hacking in. I would like to remind you that everybody up here is for fun and for free. I don't see anybody hacking in to get the paycheck these people are getting.

Amy S. GSR Greenhouse Group, Norcross- As a sick and suffering alcoholic, you're asking me to make sure I'm paid up on my phone and that it is charged properly, and that I can actually get service. I think that's an awful lot. Especially for this alcoholic.

Fred R. GSR New Hope Group, Savannah- I make a motion that we table this.

Denny M. GSR Don't Drink Liquor Club, 5C – I second that.

Rebecca T. Past Area Office Chair; Point of Order- The proper procedure is Call the Question which means to end discussion. Tabling is a whole other thing. What I think the person is requesting is that we end discussion. If we could do this procedurally correct.

Fred R. GSR New Hope Group, Savannah- I call the question.

Denny M. GSR Don't Drink Liquor Club, 5C – I second.

Vote to call the question,
211 for 8 opposed. Question is called

Discussion ends.

We will vote on this motion at May Assembly

Review of Assembly Procedures

Rick M. Area 16 Chairperson

Motion: I make a motion that "GSSA create the position of "Armed Forces and Veterans Chairperson". The requirements for this position be created similar to the requirements for the other committee chair people found on pages 25-26 of the Georgia State Service Manual."

Discussion

Patrick Alternate DCM 16C – I am a Veteran and an alcoholic. I currently facilitate a Veterans meeting at a resource center. I'd just like to say as it says in the book, "one alcoholic talking to another alcoholic can bring about recovery. I do also believe that Corrections and Treatment have a different atmosphere such as Veterans, especially combat Veterans that deal with PTSD, Social Disorder, transition. When adding alcoholism to that they can be apprehensive and timid and I think I do believe based on my experience that Veterans to Veterans have a unique atmosphere and efficacy and I do support the New Committee.

Micah G. PICPC Chair- We received the information from the GSO Audit prior to the May Assembly it was suggested based on all of that information, our reaction, and responses to that was to create a series of sub-committees that included both Armed Forces and also Websites and Hot Lines the Spanish Community including the Literature also the Social Media presence. Would the fulfillment of those Committees including the Armed Forces meet the needs of this proposal? If a vote is put through and it passes. We will still move forward with the other 4 sub-sectors and sub-committees and appointing chairs for those.

Dan, Alternate DCM 12B- Card carrying member of Alcoholics Anonymous. United States Army. One of the things that I've heard all weekend is Bridging the Gap and who is missing in our meetings and reaching out the hand. This could be a useful tool for alcoholics anonymous to help Veterans in need of this service. I went through their recovery program. They don't fix the problem. They put a band aid on it. What the Military tries to do with Alcoholics is to get them fit to fight and get them returned to duty and continue the war, not treat alcoholism. If it wasn't for the AA Community, I would not be here with you today. One of the things that happens is you get different Post, Military ID Card. That's my pass on and off Post. Other alcoholics that don't have a Military ID Card can't get on and off Post. There are special needs for the Military. I overheard a LT. Colonel talking to a Company Commander. The Company Commander said "sir why are we spending all this time effort and money on these soldiers when we are going to kick them out of the Army anyways"? The Colonel turned to the Captain and said, "Son do you really want somebody like that living next door to your sister or your Mother"? We need to educate the Military Community. Sure, we have PICPC, Treatment, and Corrections. (time bell was rang).

Brandon L. Alternate DCM 7A- Rick, I was just going to suggest with all the new GSR's here at the January Assembly and since this is for a vote, if we could possibly do a re-cap of the Ad Hoc Committee's Report Recommended for this motion.

Rick M. – I am going to ask the body that question. What he is asking is for a re-cap of what the Ad Hoc Committees' recommendation was. I am going to ask for a show of hands if you would like a recap of what that Ad Hoc Committee reported so that you understand what they suggested.

All those in favor of a re-cap. I am not seeing a majority so we won't do that.

Daniel L. DCM 16E- I am also the Motion maker. Georgia has a ton of Veterans. I got an e-mail from PICPC recently about reaching out to who is not in your meetings. Veterans are not in these meetings. I am a severely wounded Veteran. It took me forever to get sober cause I could not find AA. I tried to get help from the VA and failed. Then I finally found AA. The Responsibility Statement says I want the hand of AA to always be there. It's not there right now for Veterans who are trapped in themselves, who are lost in their head. I would like to keep that in mind. Thank you so much for your time and your Service.

Tanner S. GSR, New Beginnings, 7A- Will this position cost GSSA and additional funds?

Rick M. – Yes.

Katie I. Alternate DCM 12A- I just ended a 2-year position as a Treatment Rep. for our District for 12A and B. During that 2-year period I connected about 400 soldiers with AA members around the world. That includes The Netherlands, Italy, Germany, Bahrain, and many more places. I contacted DCM's in those areas. Sometimes it was hard but I was able to do that. The Soldiers that left Fort Gordon every week had someone at their home duty station that they could connect with. It can be done.

Bobby O. DCM, Tybee Island Group-Savannah- Katie has hooked me up with several military veterans when I lived in Columbus, GA and it can be done. If we can't afford to do 4 more Cluster Forums, or electronic voting, then why do we think we can afford to add another Committee Chairperson. I honor every Military Officer that has served our Country and is a sober member of Alcoholics Anonymous and I am responsible when anyone period, doesn't matter if he is Military, Black, Gay, Binary, and at what point does it stop. Are we going to ask for a Gay representative Chairperson, are we going to ask for a Black one? At what point does it stop? Thank You.

Karen A. DCM 11B- It's my understanding that we are going to include in Armed Forces Veterans that's going to fall under the PICPC Committee that we already have, am I correct? Was that the intent of the original motion?

Rick M.- No.

Karen A.- Thank you.

Bill, GSR, Belmont Breakfast Group 13J- This is my first GSR. I am not a Veteran. My brother and my Father were Veterans. My Father was in AA. My brother committed suicide before he could become an AA. One thing I do know having been around Veterans and not being one is that they have an experience that I do not have. The question was just raised about African Americans, or Gays, those are about who they are. Veterans have been through something. This is about what they've been through. I want to express my support for this motion.

Jimmy H., GSR Wayne County Group, 3A- It doesn't make a difference in voting for my group conscious whether I'm a Veteran or not. I think that no matter what the other Areas are doing, GA has been innovative so far and lead the way, and as long as this position doesn't cost any more than any other position. If we do have other positions later it will be brought to this Assembly just like this to be discussed and voted on. I am very supportive of this. There are 22 Veterans on average committing suicide every day. AA has saved my life. Thank You.

Marilynn J., Alternate DCM 14B- I'm a United States Navy Veteran. My very first AA meeting was at a US Naval Base. I was brought there after I got discharged by my Active Duty boyfriend who was going through Navy re-hab. That was my first AA meeting. My first Alanon meeting was right after that. I don't know about the Army bases but I do know that the Navy bases where they have the re-habs that AA is represented there. I do know they have a regular AA meeting at the VA Hospital in Atlanta. I used to work for the VA. I was right there next to the Hospitals so I know they had the meeting there and

they still do to this day. I don't know that there is necessarily a need for a representative. I think we are represented. Thank you.

Sarah, GSR Freedom at Four, 14C- My question is what would be the difference between a Veteran and Armed Forces Chairperson and a sub Committee of PICPC in the ability and focus to get the job done? Michaela M. DCM 13A, Ad Hoc Committee Chair, - the Ad Hoc Committee recommended to not approve the motion as it stands. We did recommend that based on literature from GSO, talking to Delegates that were in the Military, that a subcommittee be created under PICPC. There was a paper that was published. A letter to professionals by GSO in 2017 that was very clear that stated Military and Veteran Affairs fall under PICPC.

Denny M. GSR Don't Drink Liquor Club,5C- US Marine Corp Veteran. If you had the freedom to drive here this weekend, I urge you to vote yes. The price of freedom no matter what this Committee may cost is not free. Thank you.

Mark- There are seven special interest groups that are recognized by AA. Armed Forces, LBGT Community, African Americans, Native American, Doctors, Pilots, and Young People. I can relate to two of those categories. Here is where the Veterans are different. As a young person when I got here what I heard at the Clubhouse I first came to was," what are you doing here, I spilled more than you drank." I'm also Gay. I am a member of Alcoholics Anonymous and I fall into the LBGT Community. What I know is that when I got here, I couldn't see the similarities. I have been to meetings where comments have been made. That was a decade ago. Things are changing. What I can say is that I don't have the experience to help somebody in the Military. My Dad served in the Navy and is no longer alive. I no experience in helping somebody that is suffering with PTSD from war. As a young person I needed to be around people who were young so I could see them staying sober.

Bob, PICPC 14C- Army Veteran- If you guys think that y'all drink you should go to Fort Bragg. What I'm saying as a Mentor in the Veterans Court I have the unique ability to be charged with helping these men, while I'm not a representative of Alcoholics Anonymous there, I do carry them to meetings. I think that somehow, we should outreach as much as we can to these Veterans because all gave some, some gave all. Thanks

Robert, GSR Madison Group 11A- I'm also a suicidal alcoholic and an amputee as well. This is not related to the Armed Forces at all. There may be some other areas where alcoholics are struggling to relate with my experience but I would like to say that I think it's pretty clear in the 12th Tradition that anonymity is the Spiritual foundation of all our Traditions ever reminding us to place Principles before Personalities. I see this as being a label on a certain group of people. I know it has been brought up in past Assemblies that where does it stop. I can categorize myself as anything, but first and foremost I'm an alcoholic. The message is that we have a solution for the suffering alcoholic. I think that PICPC is the vehicle to get that message to suffering alcoholics. I'm in favor of PICPC spearheading the Armed Forces. Thank you.

Paul, GSR Kingsland Recovery Group- I am a Combat Veteran. I was introduced 30 years ago by the Army. I'm not 30 years sober. Part of my problem was when I came into the rooms I didn't fit in anywhere because I was terminally unique. I think separating Veterans and making them more terminally unique may add to the problem not solve it. Thanks.

Tom S. DCM 2B- Abbeville Group- I am a recovering alcoholic and a pharmaceutical junky. I am also retired Military. I was introduced to Alcoholics Anonymous through the Military. Part of my rehab through the Army Drug and Alcohol program was to attend AA meetings. The Military made it clear up front and personal that if I wanted to stay in the Military, I had certain guidelines that I had to follow one of which was going to meetings. I took responsibility for my sobriety and recovery through the help of people in rooms like this around the world. I can't see where having an Armed Forces Chairperson would be applicable. However, if the Assembly decides to put it under PICPC I think any vehicle or information that could be made available would be good.

Ronald G., GSR Nahunta Group, 3B- My first sponsor was a Veteran of the Vietnam War and I stayed with him for 4 years and I witnessed the night terrors. He now has Parkinson's Disease. If this motion is passed, what would be the qualifications for the Chair? Will this Committee also include First Responders?

Rick M.- In response to the second question the answer is no, First Responders would not be included. I would like for Michaela to respond to the 1st question.

Michaela M. DCM 13A, Ad Hoc Committee Chair-Because we felt that this motion was not a viable way to move forward, we did not consider specific qualifications. We did talk quite a bit about a person would need to have experience serving in the Military to serve on any sub-committee position.

Keith R., Alternate GSR Cartersville Study Group, Cartersville, GA- In the past 2 hours I've been against the motion and I've been for the motion. That's how persuasive you are. The more I listen and the reason I'm here right now is that it sounds to me like there is a vehicle within Alcoholics Anonymous for this and it is PICPC. Having said that, and as a PI person myself, I'm not equipped and capable of providing the level required. Most people who are volunteering for PICPC would require a lot of training. We can't expect the average alcoholic to be able to help this population within Alcoholics Anonymous. I don't think we can do it. We need something special. Thank you

John S. Alternate DCM 13D- I am not a Veteran. I am from a big family of jarhead Veterans however. This motion when it was considered by the Committee they voted not to go in this direction. Their suggestion was that it become a part of PICPC. GSO has also made a similar suggestion in their guidelines. I think it is 100 percent clear that nobody is against doing everything that we can do to help Alcoholic Veterans. The question is just how best for us to do that. However, we decide to do this it will be just like everything else in Alcoholics Anonymous, on alcoholic helping another. I am a stuck up suburban white kid from the suburbs. I am surrounded by murderers, rapist, and hard-core junkies every Tuesday night. I don't care about any of that because they are Alcoholics in this prison that I go to and I have never been in prison. I have a great rapport with these guys. I sponsor some of these guys. I am confident we will find a way to help whoever comes our way.

John R., Alternate GSR Swainsboro- I call the question.

Pete M., GSR National Hills Group, 12A- I second.

Vote was to call the question.

Discussion ended

Vote taken on motion

42 for

173 against

Motion does not carry

Minority Opinion

Bill Belmont Breakfast Group Smyrna- I just want to report to the group that I feel like I was heard and I want to thank you for that.

Action Plan Committee Update

By Tom B.

As you know, the General Service Board requested Impact Collaborative to perform the A.A. Internal/External Communications Audit. The Audit was presented to the General Service Board in August 2018.

"The General Service Board (GSB) of Alcoholics Anonymous is concerned with all matters affecting the Fellowship's primary purpose of carrying the A.A. message to the still-suffering alcoholic."

We, as an Area, began discussing this Audit in 2019, with round table discussions taking place at the May 2019 Assembly. We called our initiative "Your Voice Matters".

Debi K., Area Delegate, charged the task to a sub-committee to develop an Area 16 Action Plan that would help reach the goals outlined by the General Service Board based on the Communications audit.

This task was charged to a sub-committee of 7 in September 2019

GSR – Sharon L.

DCM – Tom B.

Area PICPC Chairperson – Micah G.

Webmaster – Paul W.

Past Area Secretary – Katy M.

Area Treatment Co-Chair – Karen S.

Area Treasurer – Christy G.

We began meeting by conference call in November 2019 and have had three conference call meetings since.

We are attacking the goals in order.

Three Key Strategic Priorities

- **Reaching Out the Hand of A.A.**
 - **Goal 1** – Model inclusivity and acceptance, and infuse the spirit of the Third Tradition throughout A.A.
 - **Goal 2** – Improve relations with professionals.
 - **Goal 3** – Improve the effectiveness of communication to remain relevant and connected to those we serve.
 - **Goal 4** – Identify new places and audience to bring the A.A. message of hope.
- **Improving Relations and Communication**
 - **Goal 5** – Promote the critical importance of our Traditions; including anonymity as discussed in the 11th and 12th Traditions.
- **Fiscal Planning**
 - **Goal 6** – Sustain the financial viability of Area 16

We have almost finished with Goals 1 and 2. There is some field research and survey work involved in recommending action plans for these two goals.

- Call each district with questions on how we, Area 16, can support and communicate better.
- What is the response to Area 16 Secretary email outreach?
- Which DCM's are attending the Assembly?
- Define underrepresented/underserved populations/groups. (who are we missing in our meetings)

We will be giving a final report with recommendations for an Action Plan on all 6 goals at the May 2020 Assembly.

New Business

Approval of New Area Chairs and Co-Chairs

Whitney S., Grapevine Chair, Mark J., Grapevine Co-Chair, Micah G., PICPC Chair, Will B., PICPC Co-Chair, Mike S., Archivist Chair, Mark G., Archivist Co-Chair, Chuck H., Communications Chair, Janie C., Communications Co-Chair, and Paul W., Web Administrator.

Approved by a show of hands.

Bid for 2022 Prepaid Convention

Dublin, Georgia

By Amy Burt

On the road to happy destiny

Where Progress is Perfection.

Geographic center of Georgia

5 national chain hotels within walking distance of conference center connected by a walking trail.

Direct access to I-16, Hwy. 441, and US 80.

9 additional lodging options 2 minutes away.

Rates \$69-\$139 per night.

Minimum of 10 comp rooms for State Office Committee, Convention Chair, Co-Chair & all speakers provided by Visit Dublin CVB.

Holiday Inn Express, Hampton Inn, Fairfield Inn, & La Quinta with free parking, free WIFI, & free hot breakfast \$109-\$139

Play in Dublin

Haunted Montrose

Golf Riverview
Kayak the Oconee
Pumpkin Patch & Farmers Market
Movies at Martin Movie House
Downtown History Tours
Monster Dash Fun Run, 3K, & 5K

Dine in Dublin Nationally acclaimed food downtown with local & chain options from \$5-\$25

Requirements to Bid on State Convention were read.

Augusta, GA
By Kim J.
District 12 a/b

Oct 21-23 (Fri am to Sun pm)
Marriott at the Convention Center
Capacity for 2500 +

Room rates (estimate):
Marriott \$139
other hotels in the area:
Ramada \$91
Comfort Inn & Suites \$95
Holiday Inn Express \$103
Hyatt House \$96

variety of restaurants in the area

attractions: Golf, Augusta Canal, Riverwalk, Phinizy Swamp Nature Park, Savannah Rapids Park, Art District, Clarks Hill (Strom Thurmond) Lake

General Sharing

Denny M. GSR Don't Drink Liquor Club Group, 5C, - I make a motion to close.
Steven C. GSR Early Birds Group, 5C-I second that motion.

Meeting Adjourned.

