

THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA

Georgia State Service Assembly

Business Meeting Minutes

Sunday, January 20, 2019

Pending Approval at the May 2019 BUSINESS MEETING

Breaking News

Our Delegate Rick M. announced that the Cuban government has officially recognized Alcoholics Anonymous. Without such recognition AA was unable to have an office or even a telephone line. Cuba has an estimated 1700 members and over 100 active groups.

Delegate Report – Rick M.

Rick began his report with a welcome and acknowledgement of all attendees at this first assembly in 2019. 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 2018

A most successful 65th Pre-paid convention was held and you'll hear more this morning from the committee chair as he gives the final report. I don't know about you, but I was impressed by a fantastic facility a very welcoming city! DCM Planning meeting was held in November, we welcomed some new committee chairs and co-chairs. You'll meet and hopefully approve them this morning. We also approved our 2019 GSSA budget and learned of the pre-conference meeting committee assignments for the April meeting here in Macon. The following weekend the Metro District 13 Cluster Forum was held in Tucker; great job!. The next weekend your alternate delegate, Deb K. and I attended the South East Forum in Sterling, VA. More about that a little later. November 17th was a PI/CPC workshop in Cherry Log and I hope you heard more about that from our committee. I also want to congratulate and thank Cathy B., our Corrections Committee Chair, on attending and being a part of the committee for the 2nd annual National Corrections Conference held in Portland, ME. I think maybe Georgia is interested in hosting this event in 2021.

General Service Board 4th Quarter Meeting highlights – the October 30th, 2018 meeting reported activities of the GSB including A.A. World Services, Inc., A.A. Grapevine, Inc.

- ***Group Services***

The General Services coordinator reported most changes to the service committee kits for 2019 have been received and are being implemented.

- ***Technology/Communications/Services***

Website - The website redesign is progressing forward with first draft wireframes for the homepage in both desktop and mobile formats in review. The process has moved from a committee style to a project management team with a user testing program to begin before the end of the year.

AAWS App – License for the Meeting Finder app has been signed and an announcement letter was sent to area chairs and delegates inviting them to connect to the Meeting Guide. Currently the meeting guide is listing information from over 200 AA entities and that number is growing as word gets out that it will be a part of the AAWS app. More on this later from our Ad Hoc committee.

- ***Board Approved Recommendations from Publishing:***

The board approved the following recommendation by the Publishing Committee:

- That the pamphlet "The God Word" be priced at \$0.40 per unit in English, French and Spanish (Motion Passed)

- ***Grapevine Highlights***

- Newly published book "One Big Tent – Atheist and Agnostic AA Members Share Their Experience, Strength and Hope". Has exceeded expectations selling approximately 3,600 copies from Sept. 20 to Oct 24. That more than covered the cost of the book in the first month!
 - The GV financial report shows that sales are ahead of projections.
 - Will be translating Emotional Sobriety into French.
 - Subscriptions are still going down but not as quickly as projected.
 - Monthly website traffic is averaging 35,968 unique visitors and 132,780-page views

- ***Archives***

1. New book Our Great Responsibility: A Selection of Bill W.'s General Service Conference Talks, 1951 – 1970 – to be published and available the first quarter of 2019.
2. Photographs from new book Our Great Responsibility: A Selection of Bill W.'s General Service Conference Talks, 1951 – 1970 – Five archival photographs to be reproduced and made available for A.A. use only following the publication of the book at a suggested contribution of \$2.75 each, based on current suggested contributions for similar items.
3. Recently acquisitioned film of the founders and their wives in the garden – after much discussion about how to use it's been decided to distribute the film as an item available from the GSO Archives at an appropriate contribution suggestion to defray the cost of reproduction and mailing.
4. The committee agreed to forward to the 2019 Conference Committee on Archives a request to consider adding the newly accessioned 1940s home movie of the cofounders and their wives to the video "Markings on the Journey".

- **Trustees Committee on International Convention/Regional Forums**

- International Convention: - 2030 site for the IC was recommended and approved: St. Louis! There were so many little things that were in St. Louis, hotel package, transportation, layout of the space, iconic attraction within walking distance. AA community in St. Louis was substantially supportive and enthusiastic. It was noted that Indianapolis presented a strong package and hoped that they would submit again for the 2035 bid.
- Carlyle W (Panel 67 delegate) was recommended and approved to serve as the local Volunteer Welcome Committee Chair for the 2020 International Convention.
- Registration for the 2020 International Convention is scheduled to open in September 2019.
- A draft video flyer for the 2020 IC was reviewed and will be made available for download on aa.org as soon as it is finalized.

- **Trustees Committee on Literature**

- Questions and Answers on Sponsorship – the committee agreed to forward to the 2019 Conference Committee on Literature a progress report on the revision to the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship”.
- The A.A. Group – the committee agreed to forward to the 2019 Conference Committee on Literature a request to revise the pamphlet “The A.A. Group”.
- Progress continues to be made on pamphlet revisions to:
 - The Twelve Traditions Illustrated
 - Too Young?
 - Young People and A.A.

- **Conference Committee**

- The committee discussed reimplementing a simple majority vote practice from a 1986 Advisory Action but has not been implemented since 1995. This action was followed from 1989 to 1995. The committee agreed to forward to the 2019 Conference Policy & Admission Committee the 1986 Advisory Action: “If a committee recommendation does not receive the two-thirds vote required to become a Conference Advisory Action, but has a majority of votes, it automatically becomes a

suggestion and be duly noted in the Conference Report”. If the process is reaffirmed, the trustees asked that the committee provide suggestions regarding appropriate action to be taken when a Conference committee recommendation fails but receives a simple majority vote.

- The committee discussed a process for how the Conference Agenda Committee could review, discuss and act on Proposed Agenda Items Not Forwarded to a Conference Committee. The subcommittee will work on a final version of the process for review at the January 2019 meeting which may then be forwarded to the Conference committee.
- The committee is still discussing Equitable Workload with the idea that it requires a broader discussion that would include trustees’ and delegate committee chairs along with GSO Management and staff members. A proposed plan will be brought back for review in January 2019.
- The Committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the Trustees Committee on Literature a request for work to begin on the development of a fifth edition of the Big Book for their review at the 2019 January meeting.
- Agenda item for censure or reorganization – the committee discussed a proposal for “all agenda items for censure or reorganization be forwarded directly to the Conference Committee on Trustees” and took no action. The reasons were that any such items have always followed the process of going through a trustees committee and no item for censure or reorganization had NOT been forwarded to a conference committee.
- The committee tabled discussion on creating a new Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Elder Community until January 2019.

- **CPC/Treatment/Accessibilities**

1. *CPC – Court Referrals – as part of the staff report the committee discussed potential alcoholics coming to A.A. through court referrals and requested the staff secretary to update the A.A. Guidelines on Cooperating with Court, S.W.I. and Similar Programs to better reflect what A.A. is and is not*
2. *LinkedIn: examples of how A.A. content could display on a LinkedIn page were reviewed and discussed to reflect the goals included in the 2018 Conference Advisory Action. More will be revealed at the January 2019 meeting after additional work.*

- **Corrections**

1. Letter on Prerelease and Bridging the Gap – the committee reviewed a rough draft of a letter to Professionals regarding Prerelease and BTG temporary contact volunteer services. The letter is going to be further reviewed with the help of a couple of our Class A trustees who are involved in the court system and be brought back to the January 2019 meeting.
2. Draft FAQ on Corrections Services - the committee reviewed a rough draft of a FAQ sheet for new chairpersons and which will be included in the kit. It will include sharing from local committees. A subcommittee will review the content and streamline the information for a revised draft review at the January 2019 meeting.
3. A New Freedom Video – after noting a 2016 additional consideration from the Conference Correction Committee suggesting shorter versions of the video, it was recommended that the existing 30-minute video “A New Freedom” be produced in a 15 and 3 minute version with an estimated cost not to exceed \$12,000. (Motion Passed)

- **Trustees Committee Nominating**

1. Partial or Complete Reorganization of the Boards – the committee has gathered information to develop procedures to address this additional consideration from last year’s conference. There is a subcommittee working on this that includes two lawyers and draft procedures or a progress report is due back in January.
2. GSB position and service requirements and effectiveness: The committee is developing methods to gather shared experience from the fellowship and GSB members, past and current with respect to serving on the board, including workload, terms of service and rotation. A progress report will be given at the January meeting.

- **Trustees Committee on Public Information**

- The committee agreed to forward to the 2019 Conference Committee on Public Information a request that the video PSA “My World” be discontinued.
- The committee continues to work on developing language to reflect that A.A.’s anonymity Traditions are not a cloak protecting criminal or inappropriate behavior and will continue to discuss at the January 2019 meeting.

- **Finance Highlights**

1. *For the nine months ended September 30, 2018 revenues were 1.66% higher than budgeted and 1.14% lower than the 9 months ended September 30, 2017. Operating expenses were 1.72% greater than budgeted and 8.37% more than last year. Contributions were \$5,830,773 or 1.66% higher than budget and .87% lower than this point last year. Online contributions for the first 9 months of 2018 were \$571,165 which accounts for 9.80% of our total contributions.*
2. Georgia = \$92,354 53.05% of Groups (417 of 786) (down from 2017 – 53.09 vs 53.05%)

- **General Service Conference – May 19th – 25th** . I will be a member of two committees, the *Literature Committee* and, the *Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums*. I’m excited I

have received these assignments! Last year at conference, I was appointed co-chair of the Literature committee and Chair of the IC/RF committee. I’m honored to have been invited to attend and participate in the Board Meeting Weekend next weekend where, it will be decided what agenda items will be forwarded to the 69th General Service Conference for consideration.

- We will have our Pre-conference meeting on April 6th to discuss all these agenda topics for this year’s GSC. The background material should be available by the 2nd week of February for distribution. I would like to make it available on our website for download.

A.A. Internal/External Communications Audit

In My May report to you, I mentioned there were communications audit personnel attending the General Service Conference. They were there continuing to collect audit information on behalf of a firm contracted by the GSB. The audit report is now complete. I have made this report available to you on our website.

Now I want to briefly tell you about this report with the intent that you read it, take it to your groups, discuss it, and come back in May and be prepared to bring back your group’s recommendations/thoughts for GSO and, more importantly, A.A..

There were three key objectives for this Audit:

Better understand the current state of G.S.O.’s, A.A.W.S.’s, and AAGV’s internal and external communications assests, channels, and processes – assessing each for its effectiveness

1. in (directly or indirectly) supporting A.A.'s primary purpose.
2. Identify different groups connected to the fellowship that need to be reached, and the best means of reaching them "where they are".
3. Define gaps and opportunities in current communications.

In essence, the report's findings focus on a number of important areas that are critical to our overall ability to communicate effectively, both within the Fellowship (i.e., to each other) and to the general public – those outside the Fellowship, whether they are interested in A.A. or are still-suffering alcoholics looking for a solution.

On a positive note, the findings indicate that A.A.'s primary purpose is alive and well at the group level. However, communicating that primary purpose and other information is getting somewhat lost at the Board level, within the Conference structure, and at the administrative level.

The findings also indicate that while many within the Fellowship consider it to be "lifesaving" and "a program for living," A.A. is often perceived by those outside the Fellowship as "religious," and is often characterized as reactive as opposed to pro-active in our communications.

These are just a few of the conclusions reached. And yet, as we all know and have experienced first-hand, the power of A.A. to change lives and to lift alcoholics out of the darkness and into the light is unparalleled. Together, we are part of an amazing Fellowship that offers the hand of recovery literally around the world.

So, the job set out before us is to search out our flaws and rededicate ourselves to overcoming whatever is keeping us from reaching any and all who need us. That is the purpose of the communications audit embarked on, and, while we recognize that it will be an ongoing effort, the process can begin with each one of us, right now. There are many initiatives that are already occurring in our service structure to extend A.A.'s hand beyond our traditional audiences. The 68th General Service Conference passed a number of Advisory Actions that are related to our goal of reaching anyone who might want AA's help.

Challenge: Audit Results Input & Discussion – *Informed Group Conscience*

As you'll see, there are many findings we as an Area can provide input on for the continued betterment of our fellowship's primary purpose. It is my hope, that in May, you'll come back ready to address these findings and we create together constructive input for GSO. In my absence while at the GSC, Deb K. will lead this effort with assistance from our past delegates, office committee, and Service Committee Chairs and Co-chairs.

Thank you again for this honor and privilege to serve you Area 16, Georgia and, A.A. as a whole

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, Diane M. past treasurer, Gene T. past treasurer, Joan M. past secretary, David M. past delegate, past treasurer

SEPTEMBER 2018 GSSA BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES APPROVED BY A SHOW OF HANDS WITH A CORRECTION AS FOLLOWS:

Under discussion of changing the Office Chair position to an elected position, Harold I. was at the microphone and I misquoted his 2nd point. I reported "2) To have an **ODD** number of people on the OC to have a significant majority". It should have read "2) To have an **EVEN** number of people on the OC to have a significant majority".

65TH PREPAID CONVENTION (ATHENS) REPORT- JIM T., CONVENTION CHAIR

The 65th Prepaid Convention was a huge success! Our speakers did a fantastic job carrying the AA Message of Recovery. Following are some Highlights of the Convention:

1. Finances: Budget was \$42,000; Total Expenses = \$41,926 (-\$74).
 - a. We were the first Prepaid to cover all expenses for the Office Committee and Area Chairs (new guidelines).
 - b. Excellent participation from our Groups in District 16B.
 - c. Committees Under Budget: Speakers, Entertainment, Registration, Convention Committee, Hospitality, and Outreach.
 - d. Classic Center total cost (incl. coffee) was \$25,020; Budget: \$17,364
2. Registration: Total registered = 1,396. (Probably closer to 1,500 based on attendance at Saturday night speaker meeting.)
3. Planned Activities:
 - a. Georgia-Florida Game Viewing: 200 attendees
 - b. Sanford Stadium Tour: 96 attendees
 - c. Georgia Botanical Garden Tour: 43 attendees
 - d. Georgia Museum of Art Tour: 31 attendees
 - e. Fun Run/Walk: 23 participants
 - f. Golf Tournament at Jennings Mill: 14 participants
 - g. Motorcycle Poker Run: 8 participants

Our Host Committee did a fantastic job leading up to and during the Convention. We had a very young committee that was generally fairly new to sobriety. They had an abundance of energy and all did exactly what was expected of them. It was an absolute pleasure to work with them and we all had a great time hosting the 65th Prepaid Convention – much laughter and fun was shared by all. District 16B benefitted greatly from the Convention from a Service standpoint. My observation is hosting a Prepaid Convention tends to energize a District. That is certainly the case for ours. I am very grateful for the opportunity to Chair the 65th Prepaid Convention. Please extend our thanks throughout your Districts to everyone who attended!

The 66th Prepaid Convention (SAVANNAH) REPORT-LIZ B., CONVENTION CHAIR

The 66th Prepaid convention will be held in Savannah Thursday, October 17- Sunday, October 20, 2019.

*It will be held at the Savannah Civic Center's Johnny Mercer Theater.

*The theater seats 2500 people, and we have access to the arena as well. There we will have the committees display tables, activity information, literature, and Alanon. There will also be room for break out meetings and workshops.

*The committee has invited 6 AA speakers, and an Alanon speaker for Saturday morning. The Friday night entertainment will be hosted by the local YPAA group, Broad Highway, and there will be a fabulous local band with dancing in the ballroom after the speaker on Saturday night.

*We currently have 437 registered for the event.

*You may register at the registration table outside in the lobby. There is a PO Box listed on the registration form that you can mail it into. Please feel free to take hard copies back to your group. Online registration is available at aageorgia.org, and hotel information is on the registration form.

*The host hotel was the "B" Historic, and is now owned by a new company and called Tryp by Windham. The Rate for the host hotel is \$179. If you have already made a reservation when it was the B Historic, your reservation is still good.

Room blocks at all hotels are listed under 66th Georgia Prepaid Convention, and room rates vary from \$109 in the midtown area, to \$219 downtown. There are 300 rooms blocked throughout the city. Information on rates for each hotel is available at the registration table in the lobby. Cut off for registration within the room block is September 17th.

*We have created a Facebook group page for those attending the convention. Information and hotel links are on there. It's listed under 66th Georgia State Prepaid Convention - 2019 Savannah, GA attendees' group. Anyone who is already in the group can add you to the group if you are one of their friends. There are already over 450 members in this secret group.

*The paid events we will be offering are a kayak tour on Friday and possibly a paddle board tour on Saturday at a cost of \$55 each. The vendor asks that you make reservations and pay for either the kayak or paddle board tours directly with them. The tour is listed under 66th Prepaid, and contact information for the vendor is on the back of the registration form. If there is a lot of interest in either tour, we will be able to offer a second tour of either or both events. There will also be a motorcycle poker run on Saturday at 9am. The committee is offering a complete lunch, a commemorative patch, and a hand for \$20. Additional hands will be available for \$5 each. There is also talk about creating t-shirts for the run. The sub-committee for the poker run will contact those who have expressed an interest to participate about t-shirts in the upcoming months. There will be the traditional low-country-boil offered on Saturday evening before the speaker on the northern veranda at a cost of \$28. The dinner has limited seating, and the first 275 who send in their money will receive a meal ticket in their registration packet. Please mail your check for the low-country-boil to the PO Box on the registration form. You may also pay for it at the registration table in the lobby. *There are so many things to do in Savannah, and we can't possibly satisfy every request. To resolve this, we have decided to provide a Savannah Guide that will provide information on tours, golf, dining and more. This table will be manned by local AA members in the Savannah tourist industry.

*District 5 looks forward to hosting the 66th Georgia Prepaid convention in Savannah. We hope to see all of you there!

ALTERNATE DELEGATE REPORT – DEBI K.

Cluster Forum- Theme voted by the General Service Conference April 2018 and approved at GSSA September 2018:

Our Big Book- 80 years, 71 Languages

Topics include:

- Yesterday's World- Our Legacies Begin
- Today's World-Demonstrating Integrity, Anonymity, and Service

➤ Tomorrow's World-Courage to be Vigilant

When you read the Communications audit, think about how these are addressed in the report.

Four Cluster Forums this year: **Southeast:** The first one is in St. Simon's on March 16th. St. Simon's Presbyterian Church, 205 King's Way. 9:00-1:00. I hope all of you can come!

East Central Cluster- June 2019-Look for their flyer April 1

Northwest- August 2019- Look for their flyer June 1

District 17- April 14, 2019 Tara Club -575 North Central Avenue, Atlanta, GA 30354

This is also District 17's 21st Anniversary. There will be an Anniversary Celebration as well as the Cluster Forum. Festivities begin at 12:00 PM.

District 17 has lots of exciting events this year!

Georgia State Spanish Convention-May 18 & 19, Fairfield Inn and Suites, Gwinnett Place

National Hispanic Convention of US and Canada: Aug 30-Sept 1. Location in Atlanta area TBD.

We are very excited to host this event in Area 16!

66th Georgia Prepaid Convention

October 17th – 20th, 2019

The Savannah Civic Center 301 W. Oglethorpe Ave., Savannah, GA 31401

“OUR BIG BOOK - 80 YEARS, 71 LANGUAGES”

Registration forms available online.

We will be taking bids for the 68th Georgia Prepaid Convention following the guidelines in our Georgia Service Manual:

Bids for 68th Prepaid Convention October 2021

The DCM makes his/her district's bid for the convention, two years in advance.

This presentation should include the exact dates, location, names of hotels or motels, rates of lodging and meals, capacities of auditoriums and other pertinent information including the desirability of holding the convention in a particular district.

16 C, D, & E will be making a bid during New Business.

Other Area Events during the first quarter of 2019:

Corrections Certification Training

January 26th

GSSA Office

Macon

Delegate's Get Together

Crowne Plaza Atlanta Airport

Feb.7-9

Unity Weekend

Lawrenceville, GA

Feb. 8-9

Freedom from Bondage Conference

Aberdeen, NC

March 8-10

SE Cluster Forum

St. Simon's Island

St. Simon's Presbyterian

Church

March 16

DCM Pre-conference Meeting

Centenary United Methodist Church

NOTE NEW LOCATION

1185 Ash Street

Macon

April 6

District 17 Cluster Forum

April 14

GCYPAA XXVIII

May 10-12, 2019

Visit gypaa.ga

Radisson Hotel

Marietta, GA 30067

Georgia Service Assembly

May 17-19

General Service Conference

May 19-25

SECRETARY REPORT – TRACY M.	<u>Attendance Report</u>
DCMS	42
ALT. DCMS	29
DISTRICT SECRETARY/TREASURERS	5
GSRS	251
ALT. GSRS	62
GROUP SECRETARY/TREASURERS	12
GRAPEVINE REPS	7
TREATMENT FACILITY REPS	11
CORRECTIONAL FACICLITY REPS	12
COMMUNICATIONS	3
PI/CPC REPS	10
ARCHIVE REPS	4
MEMBERS	<u>52</u>
TOTAL	500

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.

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.

DISTRICT E-MAIL

Our preferred form of communication with you is thru your district email box accessible by going to: [district @aageorgia.org](mailto:district@aageorgia.org).

COMMUNICATION

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

TEASURER REPORT

On my slides you will see actuals from the 2019 budget that your DCM's approved in November. I will be spending time on the 2018 numbers of December 31, 2018.

AREA 16
GEORGIA STATE SERVICE ASSEMBLY

INCOME

	2019 Budget	2018 Actual	2018 Budget	2018 Difference
Ordinary Income	\$166,720.53	\$176,626.39	\$169,237.50	\$7,388.89
Literature Income and Interest	\$115,650.00	\$108,965.46	\$104,600.00	\$4,365.46
Total Income	\$282,370.53	\$285,591.85	\$273,837.50	\$11,754.35

aageorgia.org | gssa@aageorgia.org | P.O. Box 7325 Macon, GA 31209 | Phone: 478-745-2588 | Gssa@2006

AREA 16
GEORGIA STATE SERVICE ASSEMBLY

EXPENSES

	2019 Budget	2018 Actual	2018 Budget	2018 Difference
COMMITTEES	\$30,360.00	\$26,774.48	\$35,906.66	(\$9,132.18)
ASSEMBLY	\$43,276.44	\$40,853.55	\$40,307.40	\$546.15
OPERATIONS	\$111,786.04	\$110,442.44	\$103,891.51	\$6,580.93
LITERATURE	\$97,162.50	\$97,318.94	\$93,287.50	\$4,031.44
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$282,584.98	\$275,389.41	\$273,393.07	\$2,026.34

aageorgia.org | gssa@aageorgia.org | P.O. Box 7325 Macon, GA 31209 | Phone: 478-745-2588 | Gssa@2006

AREA 16
GEORGIA STATE SERVICE ASSEMBLY

EXPENSES BY COMMITTEE

	2019 Budget	2018 Actual	2018 Budget	2018 Difference
OFFICE COMMITTEE	\$8,180.00	\$5,291.69	\$8,380.00	(\$3,088.31)
PI/CPC	\$1,800.00	\$990.12	\$1,700.00	(\$799.88)
COMMUNICATIONS	\$5,930.00	\$1,075.44	\$9,043.33	(\$7,367.89)
TREATMENT	\$2,940.00	\$1,924.99	\$2,040.00	(\$115.01)
CORRECTIONS	\$3,490.00	\$2,030.67	\$3,540.00	(\$1,509.33)
ARCHIVES	\$2,490.00	\$5,393.33	\$5,323.33	\$70.00
GRAPEVINE	\$1,640.00	\$1,259.20	\$1,690.00	(\$430.80)
MISCELLANEOUS	\$3,800.00	\$8,209.04	\$4,100.00	\$4,109.04

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AREA 16
GEORGIA STATE SERVICE ASSEMBLY

TOTALS

	2019 Budget	2018 Actual	2018 Budget	2018 Difference
TOTAL INCOME	\$282,370.53	\$285,591.85	\$273,837.50	\$11,754.35
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$282,584.98	\$275,389.41	\$273,393.07	\$1,996.34
DIFFERENCE	(\$214.45)	\$10,142.44	\$444.43	\$9,698.01

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GSSA RESERVE FUND	
Current Reserve Fund Balance (as of 12/31/2018)	\$164,369.75
Operating Expenses (as of 12/31/2018)	\$178,130.39
Months of Operating Expense (as of 12/31/2018)	11.04

PREPAID CONVENTION				
	3-year Rolling Average	2018 Budget	2018 Actual	2018 Difference
65th-Athens	\$40,100.73	\$42,000.00	\$41,926.00	(\$2,845.00)
2018 Total Contributions Reserve Fund Balance (as of 12/31/2018)			\$38,565.26	\$104,538.38
Number of Conventions per Reserve (based on a 3-year rolling average)			2.6	

Review of Assembly Procedures

AD-HOC REPORTS

Motion- “I make a motion that Area 16 consider participating in a mobile app called “Meeting Guide” that has been created to help alcoholics find AA meetings across the US, Canada, and beyond.”

Report was given by Micah G.

Committee Members Whitney S., DCM 3C- Chair; Daniel L., GSR Vision For You 16E; Micah G. Area CO-Chair PICPC

Area 16 Ad-Hoc Committee Report

January 2019 Georgia State Service Assembly

Area 16 Ad-Hoc Committee Report

At the September 2018 Area 16 Assembly a motion was made as follows, I make a motion that Area 16 consider participating in a mobile app called “MEETING GUIDE” that has been created to help alcoholics find AA meetings across the US, Canada and beyond. They are a non-profit organization run solely by volunteer AA members, and are supported by donations, there is not charge for the app and no ads. An ad-hoc committee was formed of myself, Micah G. and Daniel L. Together we formed a committee to research and investigate Area 16 possibly participating in the mobile app “Meeting Guide”. We met via telephone conference several times and used email and text messages to convey and relay information amongst the committee throughout our time working together.

How It Works

According to the Meeting Guide Website, being that meeting information changes constantly, their system updates its database by scanning the latest information from compatible official area websites twice daily.

GSO - Into Action

Micah contacted Clement C. (Communications Services) directly at GSO who confirmed that Meeting Guide is now owned by Alcoholics Anonymous. Clement then informed us that Josh, the app developer and who is also a member of Alcoholics Anonymous, has donated the app to GSO. The app was donated under the condition that if GSO ever decides against using the app, they will give the rights back over to the app developer. Therefore, Josh has been hired by Alcoholics Anonymous as a special worker for the year of 2019 to help during the apps transition with an annual salary of \$50,000. On November 2nd, 2018 Greg T. announced GSO would be licensing the Meeting guide data for www.aa.org and for a future A.A.W.S. app. The following statement was released on the site under the "What's New?" section. "The General Service Office is pleased to announce that Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc., has licensed the Meeting Guide technology. The intent of licensing this technology is to make it easier for members to find A.A. meetings. More information will be available in the future through G.S.O.'s website." Being that Josh R. is the app developer and is being held accountable for all of the happenings involving the app, it was suggested by Clement that we contact Josh directly. His contact email was listed on www.meetingguide.org. At this point Josh was contacted directly and asked a series of questions.

(1) If we participated as an area, would an individual group be able to opt out of participating. His response, A Group would be able to opt out of being on the app yet still could remain on the website. The website administrator would have to create a new field in the form of JSON feed which would be a hidden page to be updated.

(2) What does the donation on the website indicate? Currently, MEETING GUIDE is a non-profit and in order to follow those guidelines, they must have some way to receive contributions. Being in alignment with the 7th Tradition, they wanted the contributions to only be received by A.A. members which an individual would have to clarify on the contribution page. Upon the full transition of the app to GSO after the calendar year, the contribution tab will be removed.

(3) If group information is entered twice (by two different websites), which one would take precedence? It isn't a matter of close proximity at this time but rather whatever information is added first will hold the priority. The system will default to the original group data that was entered. If a dataset was uploaded, they would be skipped for two reasons. 1) already registered with a group 2) address was not legible (geocoding) for google maps. Google gets confused by EXTRA information such as "upstairs" or "around back"

(4) Why does the neighboring Intergroup or AREA information show up as a contact on the app? The app uses rectangular geocoding to section off the area. Sometimes a neighboring state, district or intergroup will overlap. MEETING GUIDE app wants to provide both information as the traveler looking for a meeting may want choices that span the two sections. The app will list the closest proximity as the primary contact, followed by the secondary and if necessary, a tertiary contact.

(5) Have there been any trends with the website usage being down due to people converting to the app for meetings? Continued users for the website continue to go up but not high increase, just steady. Watching the analytics is important. People should keep visiting and participating in the other areas of the structures. It is important for every group to track the traffic with Google analytics or some similar form.

New Times and Traditions

Our Area Assembly showed major concern when it came to the new app and how it works with traditions. Daniel L. was in charge of researching how the app works with our traditions.

Tradition 4- "Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole." -we are not responsible to any authority other than our own now that the licensing has been given to GSO. Each group has the power to choose if they would like to be on the website or not.

Tradition 6- "An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose" -now that AA has the licensing the app, it is no longer an outside enterprise.

Tradition 7- "Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions." once serving as a non-profit, the MEETING GUIDE app had a "contributions" button as part of the regulations of being a non-profit. In keeping

with the Traditions at that time, they only accepted contributions from A.A. members.

Tradition 8- “Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.” -the developer of the app Josh R. (also a member of A.A.) has been employed for one to help with the transition and further development of the app for an annual salary of \$50,000

At the time of our assembly, the app was not then owned, leased, nor licensed by GSO. Since our last assembly, the app is now owned by Alcoholics Anonymous. By the end of 2018 the app will no longer have a link that lets its users send or donate money to app, as it is now funded by GSO. With the app now being licensed by GSO and with it being ran by a paid service worker, the app developer himself, this keeps the app in full compliance with AA Traditions.

Past Experience Strength and Hope

As the acting chair of the Ad-Hoc Committee it was my job to reach out to our current delegate as well as our past delegates to hear their experience, strength and hope on the subject at hand. I reached out to one current acting delegate as well as four past delegates. All were in favor of Area 16 considering using the app.

Global Participation

After starting on our research we realized the app has been in practice for at least two years. In the past two years Meeting Guide has over 42 states in the US participating. As well as several countries including: Continental Europe, Israel, Romania, Slovakia, Tokyo, Canada, and Mexico. Data in the US is collected by the FNV (Fellowship New Vision) which is submitted from AREAs to GSO. That data compared to the individual website data leaves a 25%- 33% discrepancy.

Unity

We contacted several Intergroups and districts in Area 16 to find out if they were participating or if they plan on participating. First being the Atlanta Intergroup, Micah spoke to the chairman- Jimmy Ho. Jimmy stated that there is an interest in participating in the app pending on them collecting more information. They have a committee established that is currently researching options. District 2A and 2B, William R. current DCM 2A stated they have no website capabilities at this time, which makes them unable to participate. Micah spoke to Jordan B. who is an acting Alkanon Board Member from District 7A and 7B. He stated they do have website capabilities at a clubhouse in 7B. They are interested and in the process of researching to see if it is applicable. In the 12th District Central Office, we were

able to speak with their chairman, Jimmy He., who stated they have plans to move forward pending more information. District 8 had no website capabilities at the time of us reaching out. Micah also reached out to the Southeast Georgia Intergroup, and spoke to me, Whitney S., DCM 3A. There has been interest in having our meeting schedule on an app, we are still discussing the matter at this time. For the Savannah Intergroup we spoke with Mike S., he states they have been participating since May and at this time plan to continue. Oficina Integrupal Hispana- Ancelmo says District 17 created a website and they would like to move forward with the app. Concerns over bilingual availability were expressed.

Our Recommendation

At this time, our recommendation is “To move forward as an AREA to participate using the MEETING GUIDE app. The Meeting Guide technology has been licensed by Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. There is no charge for the app and no ads. It was created to help alcoholics find meetings in the US, Canada and beyond.”

Discussion

Mark D., DCM 15B-Clarification: since the meeting schedules are on the web site for Georgia would that not be where they would pull from for this meeting guide?

Micah G.- Thank you for that. They can currently pull from our web site and that information is there. When first proposed a lot of people that were traveling through interstates coming into Georgia from another state and searching for a meeting you would have multiple options depending on where you are going. Let's say you are going to Savannah. You could look at the Savannah web site or the GSSA web site. With the Meeting Guide universally there is no transition, no searching for the data. In comparison when Mike and I pulled up his home group there were discrepancies with meeting times on the different sources. We can continue to use our web site as a local source. This would be a more universal.

Mark D.- My point is for our group do we need to host our own web-site for us to be involved in this?

Micah G.- You would not need a website to do that. If GSSA decided to participate, then they would pick up any of the meetings that are not included under an intergroup. For example; The Savannah group is already participating.

They could continue updating all of their information and meetings under their domain and any surplus that is not participating through a home group or central office. GSSA could pick up the remaining domains resulting in one full source representing the entire body.

Ernie M.-Your current GSSA web site handles groups only. To handle meetings is a whole different process. That would take a whole manual change and another motion.

Mark D.- I see your point in the difference between meetings and groups.

Ernie M.- In the Savannah group I am the Treasurer of a meeting. They are listed in the Savannah Intergroup Schedule. The meeting is listed there as a group. A lot of Intergroups have both meetings and groups listed.

JR GSR- We've Had Enough group- I wanted to bring something up that might be related to Tradition 6. When you download the app and then you look on the google play store related to this app does that create any question. Would that create a slippery slope as far as AA endorsing anything other than that specific app?

Micah- There are no ads associated with that app. To actually go and download the Meeting Guide App it downloads the information directly. There are no outside attachments.

Tom- Member at Large- We tried this at my home group. The meeting and the group come up. If we decide not to do this as a body and it's going to come up anyway, what's the point in deciding not to participate.

Micah- To clarify the question. I'm understanding it to be that in the slide presentation that each group has the power to choose to not be on the app. That Json file would be in place and it would hide your group. You could still be part of a web-site if you currently are but you, as a group, would have the power to choose not to be visible on that app.

Charlie-GSR-Swainsboro- If I understand this correctly somebody here in Macon in our office is currently entering these groups or these meetings. Is that correct?

Ernie M.- On the group web site. Yes.

Charlie- If we join this group which is already approved and GSO owns it and everybody goes with the new system, that's going to save somebody in our office some time and save us some money. Is that correct?

Ernie M.- Not at this time. We are not aware that there would be any money saved. We handle our own web site at this time which list our groups, locations, maps, etc. That is done by our staff and communications department.

Charlie- If this new system works would we have to vote again to not have duplication.

Micah- This is not a replacement for the web site. This would be a companion, an alternate source for various people. The duplicates would come up when information is being entered and that would be contingent on whether it was an intergroup participating or GSSA participating. Any duplicate information would be flagged and could be removed. Both sources would still be available to those that choose to participate.

Charlie- If it works why should we continue with a duplicate effort.

Micah- It's not a duplicate. It's an expanded service available also linked to a lot more coding. We have been re-vamping the web site. There is a lot more available through the website that is not through the app. The app would be more of a simplified version. There wouldn't be any duplicated efforts. Does that help you?

Charlie- I'm not sure. Is it appropriate for me to make a motion at this time to appoint another committee to come back and see how this works?

Ernie- No.

Rebecca- Sir, there is a duplicate effort because Tamra, in the office, updates the information. It systematically is sent to the app. The owners of the app don't put in the data. We put in the data and send it to them.

Charlie- Gotcha. Thank You.

Ernie- Clarifying. There is not going to be a vote today. If Georgia decides to not be a part of it that's fine. We can not stop the intergroups or central offices from being a part of it. If they decide to go into it the from intergroup would be

available on Meeting Guide. It may not be the same as we have here. There's not a lot of cooperation between the intergroup and the Area.

Jane A-Early Sunday Morning Group; Woodstock- What platforms are available? Currently on my phone it says it's available for I phone, I pad. I don't see anything about Android or any other version. Not everybody carries an I Phone.

Micah- There's expanded information that describes that it is available for all devices. If you're looking at it on a mobile device right now you are not getting the same formatting you would be from a lap top. They do have a web site available. A lot of this is expanded to include the different devices with the 42 states that are participating they've generated a lot of data over the last couple of years including expansion of devices.

Natalie-16C- I downloaded the app. Obviously, we don't have it here in Georgia. I was looking at the other meetings in New York. It looks very efficient. It is my understanding that the developer of the app if this doesn't pass in our state, it would go back to him? Then it's a possibility it could go back at cost because a lot of apps do cost money. Right now, it's free.

Micah- Thank you for clarifying that. When licensing did not belong to GSO they were self-supporting as a nonprofit. The licensing has transitioned. If GSO after acquiring the licensing decides as a whole that they do not want to participate, rights will be given back to the developer. If our Area decides not to participate that would not impact GSO's licensing.

Natalie- So we could not have the ability to find meetings on this app?

Micah- Unless, as Ernie suggested, the intergroups and central offices like Savannah participate. We are deciding whether GSSA will participate.

Ernie-The slide that you showed with GA participating, is that the download they are taking from our Savannah Intergroup.

Rebecca- No. That's just the Savannah Intergroup.

Sam- GSR-Bottom Feeder's In Decatur- At the beginning on the first slide, I think you mentioned GSO owned it. Then you mentioned licensing. If it's licensed at a certain point is there a term where it can be sold to AA when the license ends? Is it actually owned by GSO or this Josh guy?

Micah-The licensing has been gifted to GSO. If they choose not to remain there are no terms on the licensing. They've made a written agreement to pass the licensing back. Ownership is not effective as licensing of the app.

Dan-In Step Group 12B, in being proactive verses reactive, my point is this app going to help alcoholics reach for AA and help AA reach for alcoholics. The answer is yes. We have the Big Book in hard print and it was only last year that I downloaded it on my cell phone. I have it even if I don't have the book. It looks like this is a good thing for AA. It fits the needs of the program instead of being afraid to try something new.

Pat GSR Winner's Circle 13K- Concerning duplication. What I have found with my smart phone is that there are times when I don't have data but my apps still work. The apps don't use the data. You could use the app when you can't reach the website.

Fred DCM 16C- Point of Order. Call to Order

DD Alcoholic I make a motion we end discussion on this topic.

Ernie-I can't accept that motion

Amy S. GSR Greenhouse group, I call the question.

Rebecca-I need a GSR to second that please.

Unidentified Member- Actually this is off that topic. I wanted to ask a question. During the Treasurer's report it said that.

Ernie- Stop. I'm sorry we have a call the question on the floor.

Mark-GSR-Douglasville Group- I second that call the question.

Ernie- All those in favor of calling the question. Approved by a show of hands. At this point I will hand this over to our Delegate if that is agreeable to the floor.

Unidentified-During the Treasury report it said the donations were 500,000 dollars and the website committees decided not to take that money. I don't understand why when that's bringing in a revenue. Did I misunderstand that?

Ernie- I think you did.

Micah-To clarify: The donation is under the Meeting Guide app. It doesn't have anything to do with AA.

We have a motion requiring a manual change to be voted on.

Motion: State Chair become an elected two-year position with the same qualifications as Delegate.

Discussion:

Liz B. -GSR 5C Savannah group- I wanted to point out that in our Service Manual on page 39 it states an Office Committee consisting of:

1. Delegate
2. State Chairperson
3. State Secretary
4. State Treasurer
5. Alternate Delegate
6. Immediate past State Chairperson

If we make the State Chairperson an elected position the manual places the immediate past State Chairperson in the Office Committee having two years of experience with the committee already. If we go to the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee the current eight-year commitment for the State Delegate will be reduced to four years. Then we will have a new elected position. Two years as State Chair and two years as Office Chair. We would not have to make any more manual changes.

There was no further discussion on motion.

Vote: 125 Yes, 113 No; 2/3 majority needed to pass.

Motion did **not** pass.

No minority opinion.

Motion: Office Chair become an elected two-year position with the same qualifications as Delegate.

No discussion on motion.

Vote: 101 Yes, 137 No; 2/3 majority needed to pass.

Motion did **not** pass.

No minority opinion

New Business

Approval of New Area Chairs and Co-Chairs

Richard R., Chair Treatment Accessibilities, Karen S., Co-Chair Treatment Accessibilities, Ken P., Corrections, and David J., Co-Chair Corrections. (Whitney S., Co-Chair Grapevine, not present).

Approved by a show of hands.

Bid for 2021 Prepaid Convention

Shannon G. District 16C, Alternate DCM

Duluth as Host City for 2021 Prepaid Convention

District 16, Zone C, along with support from Zones D & E, takes great pleasure in proposing Duluth as the host city for the 68th Georgia Prepaid Convention on October 22-24, 2021. Availability for these dates has been confirmed with both the Forum and the prospective host hotels. We believe Duluth is the perfect setting for hosting the Prepaid Convention because of what the city and surrounding area has to offer.

The venue for the 68th Prepaid Convention would be The Forum in the Infinite Energy Center, which is conveniently located right off of I-85. The Forum offers seating for over 1900 people in the Grand Ballroom along with 23 additional meeting rooms. The facility has wide hallways with ample room for Committee displays. The onsite 2400 space parking garage will be completed later this year.

There are 5 hotels within walking distance: Hilton Garden Inn, Holiday Inn, Embassy Suites, Marriott Courtyard, and the Residence Inn. Also available are 4 additional hotels within a two mile radius. The price range is 99.00 – 139.00. The Infinite Energy Center has awarded a contract to build an onsite Westin hotel which is projected to be completed by 2021.

There are 12 restaurants within walking distance and several others less than 5 miles away with a price range of 7.00 – 25.00 on average. The Infinite Energy Center is in the process of adding a 118-acre mixed-use facility which will include restaurants and retail shopping. Expected completion is early 2021.

Duluth offers the old, new, and everything in between. Downtown has unique shops and restaurants, along with the Town Center, Hudgens Center for the Arts, and a railroad museum. Around town there are movie theatres, golfing, shopping malls, and the Ice Forum.

Not far from The Forum are many regional attractions that give people options for activities during down time whether it be fishing on Lake Lanier, hiking around the Chattahoochee, climbing Stone Mountain, seeing a play, visiting the zoo, or sightseeing as you drive to the beautiful and majestic North Georgia mountains.

The Forum, along with Explore Gwinnett, are excited to see the Prepaid happen in Duluth. They have a lot of experience with conventions and would be a great resource to the committee.

District 16C sincerely appreciates your consideration of Duluth as the location for the 68th Prepaid Convention. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted:

Shannon G.
District 16, Zone C
Alternate DCM
January 20, 2019

There were no other bids. Assembly will vote in May whether to approve the 2021 Convention in Duluth.

Proposal to move Assembly to Dublin for the years 2021 and 2022

Ernie M. -In September, Rusty and I presented this bid to the DCM's. The DCM's took this back to their districts. In November at the DCM planning meeting we

voted on the proposal and 2/3 majority approved the move. We now bring the proposal the Assembly body for your vote.

Ernie gave the proposal listing the complaints concerning the Marriott.

Other options were investigated. We are contracted to hold GSSA at the Marriott through 2020.

AVERAGE COST PER PAST ASSEMBLY

	2018	2017	2016
Meeting Space/Coffee	\$7,322	\$7,547	\$6,013
Hotel Rooms	\$5,585	\$4,996	\$5,171
Coffee Price (per gallon)	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$22.00

MAXIMUM PROJECTED COST PER FUTURE ASSEMBLY

	2019	2020	2021
Meeting Space/Coffee	\$7,700	\$7,700	\$8660
Hotel Rooms	\$7,057	\$7,057	\$7116
Coffee Price (per gallon)	\$27.00	\$27.00	\$35.00

(does not include service fee and tax)

WHAT WE'VE COME UP WITH...

- Dublin
 - 50 miles east of Macon on I-16
 - Conference center near Exit 51 has adequate space for our needs
 - Multiple hotels available close to meeting center
 - Multiple restaurants available close to meeting center



2021 PROPOSED COST PER ASSEMBLY IN DUBLIN

	2021
Meeting Space/Coffee	\$7,204
Hotel Rooms	\$5,149
Coffee Price (per gallon)	\$20.00



FINANCIAL COMPARISON OVERVIEW

Given that the costs for 2019 and 2020 are only estimates based on contracted rates and not final totals and given a decrease in coffee prices from \$27.00/gallon in 2018 and \$35.00/gallon in 2021 in Macon to \$20.00/gallon in 2021 in Dublin, it appears that we can expect a savings projection to GSSA:

2018 Total Maximum Cost (Macon)	\$12,907	
2021 Total Maximum Cost Projection (Macon)		\$15,776
2021 Total Maximum Cost Projection (Dublin)	\$12,353	\$12,353
Total Savings Projection	\$554	\$3,423

(projected costs and savings are per assembly)



Discussion

Mitch M., DCM 7B- Have we approached the Marriott and said to them that 35 dollars a gallon for coffee, we are not paying that much. If you do that to us we are leaving.

Rebecca T., Office Committee Chair-We have. In the last several years every time that we've signed a new contract it's basically gone up the same thing. The price that she originally quoted me was like 42 dollars plus the gratuity and tax. I reminded her that no, that's not good. We're not going up that much in coffee and what we had done in the past. Our coffee price is inclusive of the gratuity and the tax. Each time we've signed a new contract it has gone up like 5 dollars a gallon. We've never said hey we're leaving. We didn't want to cut our nose off to spite our face. We really haven't pushed for that 2021 contract like we normally would have.

Mitch M. Could we limit how much coffee we make?

Ernie- After much laughter from the body. I think you have your answer

John S., 5th Tradition Group, Atlanta-Alternate DCM 13D- Do they have hot water in Dublin?

Ashley-GSR; 13A-I polled the individual members of my group with time to get their opinion on it and the only topic I was asked to bring up was that Macon has become such a known entity that if a dark group wanted to come back it could potentially cause confusion with it being in Dublin.

Ernie-This is a proposal for 2021. We have all of 2019 and 2020 to inform the groups in our area of the change.

DD- Savannah- I make a motion we go to Dublin.

Ernie- I have a Proposal. I now have a motion to make the move. Do I have a second on the motion?

Davey J., GSR-Magnus Group, I second that.

Vote: 194 Yes, 47 No; 2/3 majority needed to pass.

Motion Passed.

Assembly will move in 2021

No Minority Opinion

General Sharing

Amy S. GSR-Greenhouse Group, Norcross-As long as I've been sober we've been having Assembly in Macon. I'm wondering if this is a Historic moment. Since the creation of Area 16 have we ever had Assembly anywhere other than Macon?

Ernie-No.

Amy S. Welcome to history people.

DD, GSR; Savannah GA, I make a motion that we adjourn.

GSR-Inaudible, 2nd the motion to close.

