

# **THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA**

## **Georgia State Service Assembly Business Meeting Minutes Sunday, May 19, 2019 Pending Approval at the September 2019 BUSINESS MEETING**

Report on "Your Voice Matters"  
Debi Keane  
Area 16 Alt Delegate  
General Service State Assembly  
May 19, 2019

As you are aware, our Area Delegate, Rick Mc is not here as he is at the 69<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference. Rick wanted me to express to you that he is honored and privileged to represent Area 16 and A.A. at Conference. He had a few items he wanted me to share with you:

- Rick will provide the Conference Delegate Report online by mid-June. If you would like him to come to your District/Zone or combined District/Zone meeting, please email him to let him know and he will be happy to get that scheduled.
- AAWS has published Our Great Responsibility, a collection of Bill W's talks at Conference from 1951-1970. It is available through the online store at aa.org for \$10 + S & H. Tamera, our Office Manager, ordered 40 copies but those have now sold out.
- Area 16 will be making a bid to host the 2021 National Corrections Conference! We are very excited and will be sending a group of representatives to the 2019 National Corrections Conference in Houston in November. If you would like to be a part of the bid committee, please email Rick at [delegate@aageorgia.org](mailto:delegate@aageorgia.org).

### **Summary of Area 16 feedback on the Communications Audit Report**

- Over 300 members participated
- Compiled over 500 unique comments
- 16 groups of 10-20 members
- 16 Notetakers
- 16 Facilitators

Our purpose was to gather feedback on four out of five of the recommendations made by the Communications Audit Report. The first recommendation addresses internal communication among the General Service Board, Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, and the Grapevine.

- Be more effective in attracting and retaining those in need of recovery, the Professional Community, AA Members, and improve public perception;

- Strengthen and unify our messaging;
- Leverage our history to become more impactful communicators;
- Provide guidance in the use of social media and other interactive tools to more deeply engage the fellowship.

Our process included entering all comments on a spreadsheet, categorized by the guiding question they address. Duplicate responses were entered with a running number to keep track of the total number of members who responded in the same manner. Thank you to Micah G., PI-CPC Co-Chair and Paul., CO-Webmaster for their invaluable assistance. This process would have been much more difficult without their help! For the purpose of reporting to the Assembly, we identified the top three responses. However, the entire spread sheet containing all responses will be sent to Rick Mc, Area 16 Delegate to share at the General Service Conference in New York.

**RECOMMENDATION 1: Be more effective in attracting and retaining those in need of recovery, the Professional Community, AA Members and improve public perception.**

- **Guiding Question** - Do you agree with the report's conclusion that the public perceives AA as a religious organization? If so, how can our service committees work to change that perception in Area 16, Georgia?
  1. Yes, but it is "softened" by the Fellowship, once you come in and work the steps.
  2. No, the public does not perceive AA as religious.
  3. I am not concerned with public perception.

**RECOMMENDATION 2 -Develop structures, processes, and procedures that strengthen and unify messaging, and more effectively manage identity, content, and communication as a whole.**

- **Guiding Question**– How can we utilize our Grapevine Committee to encourage our members to share their stories with the Grapevine?
  1. GV is great!
  2. Announce at meetings that stories are needed
  3. Have workshops or develop pamphlets/guidelines on how to submit stories
- **Guiding Question** - Do we need more open speaker meetings? How can our story-telling help public perception?
  1. We need more speaker meetings.
  2. Help get non-religious message out.
  3. Get meeting tapes made.

**RECOMMENDATION 3- Leverage A.A.'s rich history of storytelling in becoming more impactful communicators.**

- **Guiding Question** – Do you relate more to someone telling you about something or sharing their personal experience? What is an effective way to share our stories?
  1. Overwhelming majority-Personal Experience
  2. Include all parts-what we were like, what happened, and what we're like now
  3. Big Book includes stories and BB studies are great!

- **Guiding Question-** How can our Archives Committee provide additional platforms to share our A.A. history?
  1. No additional platforms are needed.
  2. We need more digitized materials available.
  3. Tie: Archives need to be saved before they deteriorate; and, better communication from archives.

**RECOMMENDATION 4 - Guide A.A. in utilizing social media, cross-platform content strategies, and other interactive tools to more deeply engage the Fellowship.**

- **Guiding Question-** What are the benefits and pitfalls of A.A. and social media? How can we communicate in the modern age of technology and social media and follow our traditions?
  1. It's a tie: We don't need social media. And, we need to safeguard our anonymity and our traditions regarding social media.
  2. Social media is essential to the newcomer.
  3. Personal responsibility/sponsorship should guide our actions regarding social media.

**Guiding Question-** What happens if we “opt-out” of social media? We will lose a generation of people who need the message of A.A.

1. No social media
2. We can't “opt-out”; we're already there.
3. We need more specific guidelines on using social media.

**Guiding Question -** Should Grapevine stories be posted on YouTube?

1. Yes, with permission from the author.
2. Yes, GV stories should be posted on YouTube.
3. Yes, as long as faces are not present.

Where do we go from here?

The Area 16 Office Committee and Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs will review your comments (both the spreadsheet and your notes) to determine next steps. If you would like to comment further, please email me at [alt\\_delegate@aageorgia.org](mailto:alt_delegate@aageorgia.org)

I want to thank you again for your engaged participation. As I walked around the room, I heard so many great comments and ideas. Area 16 is a strong area because of your dedication and commitment. I hope and pray we will all continue to work together to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous across our state and make Area 16 even stronger.

**RECOGNITION OF PAST AREA OFFICERS – Katy M. past secretary, Harold I., past treasurer, Diane M. past treasurer, David M. past delegate, past treasurer**  
**We also recognize- Tamera P. state office manager, and Fran L. her assistant.**

## **SEPTEMBER 2018 GSSA BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES APPROVED BY A SHOW OF HANDS.**

### **The 66th Prepaid Convention (SAVANNAH) REPORT-LIZ W, CONVENTION CHAIR**

The 66th Georgia 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. Parking behind the venue is free for the first 240 cars. If you park on the street, or in a parking garage, you will have to pay for parking. Parking rates vary throughout the city. Please note that the Civic Center is a City of Savannah Property, so NO weapons are allowed in the facility.

\*The theater seats 2500 people, and we have access to the arena as well. There we will have hospitality, the committee's display tables, activity information, literature, and Alanon. There will also be room for break out meetings and workshops. The upstairs ballroom will also be used for workshops during the day.

\*Registration will open up at 4:00pm Thursday the 17<sup>th</sup>. We will have a speaker at 8pm Thursday night, workshops Friday morning and afternoon, and a speaker at 4 and 8pm. Saturday morning, Al-Anon will have the stage from 9-12. We will present workshops at 1:30, have a speaker at 3:30, the Low Country Boil at 5:30 and the speaker at 8. We will finish up Sunday morning with a speaker at 10am.

\*Yoga will be offered Friday-Sunday mornings at 8am, and a morning topic discussion will be available at the same time. We will also have a meeting available every evening after the speaker. There will be a fun night on Friday featuring "Dysfunctional Family Feud", and we have a great band Saturday night in the ballroom for those who want to dance.

\*We currently have just over 700 registered for the event. Of those, 193 have signed up for the LCB, but only 91 have paid. 98 have signed up for kayaking and 48 have signed up for paddle boarding. 21 are interested in the motorcycle poker run, and 80 want to do yoga.

\*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](http://aageorgia.org), and hotel information is on the registration form.

\*The host hotel is the Tryp by Windham. The Rate for the host hotel is \$179. As of now there are only 17 rooms available at the host hotel. The other 3 hotels in the historic district have 40 rooms avail between them. Since downtown room space seems to be running low, we have booked an additional 65 rooms between 3 other historic location facilities within a few blocks of the venue. Those are the Doubletree by Hilton, the Hilton Garden Inn Historic and Homewood Suites Riverfront. Room blocks at all hotels are listed under 66th Georgia Prepaid Convention, and room rates vary from \$109 in the midtown area, to \$229 downtown. 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, but I have asked them all to extend that cut off an extra week since the next assembly falls within the 30 timeframe we have now.

\*We have a Facebook page for those attending the convention. It had previously been only accessible if you were friends with someone already on the page. That has changed. You may now locate that page on Facebook under “**66th Georgia State Prepaid Convention Attendees Group**”. Just ask to join and one of the administrators will accept your request. Information and hotel links are on that page, as well as links for kayaking and paddle boarding. There is also information about free transit throughout the downtown area. We placed a link on the site this morning where you can get e-tickets for all historical tours in town at a discounted rate. I’ve been told the ghost tour is “Disney quality”.

\*The paid events we will be offering are a kayak tour on Friday and a paddle board tour on Saturday at a cost of \$55 each. **Please be aware that you will receive a refund if we have inclement weather.** 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. There has been a lot of you expressing interest in the water events, but only a few have paid. They are not available to you unless you pay in advance, so please get your arrangements finalized. There will also be a motorcycle poker run on Saturday at 9am. We will be hosting the traditional low-country-boil offered 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.

\*District 5 looks forward to hosting the 66th Georgia Prepaid convention in Savannah. We hope to see all of you there. Thank you for the opportunity to be of service.

“**Chest of Hope**” Report/Presentation Marvin C. GVR District 17

**Rebecca T - Office Chair** (gave report for Marvin)

AA members carrying the message to Hispanic speaking inmates in correctional facilities across the US & Canada

The Hispanic District of Area 16-Georgia is proud to announce the "The Chest of Hope"

The Linguistic District 17, Area 16-Georgia, is hosting the XLVII National Hispanic Convention of A.A. August 30-September 1, 2019. There is an associated effort underway to generate **gift certificates** for subscriptions to [LaViña](#) and provide them to Hispanic speaking inmates incarcerated in correctional facilities across the US & Canada. GSO has confirmed there are 3,847 groups listed within correctional facilities.

**"The Chest of Hope"**



**How You Can Help**

- Click on the subscribe tab at [aagrapevine.org](http://aagrapevine.org)
- Click on **Gift Certificates**
- Purchase **Gift Certificates** for the US (\$11.97 each) or Canada (\$14.00 each)
- Forward your confirmed **Certificates** to [Distrito17lavina@gmail.com](mailto:Distrito17lavina@gmail.com) (please specify which state you are sending from in order to tally at convention)

## Questions?

La Viña Representative  
Linguistic District 17, Area 16

770.899.8751  
or  
470.383.9282

Secretary, Chest of Hope

314.606.6502

## ALTERNATE DELEGATE REPORT – DEBI K.

May 2019

69th General Service Conference Theme (2019)-Theme for our Cluster Forums for 2019

Topics include:

- Yesterday's World- Our Legacies Begin
- Today's World-Demonstrating Integrity, Anonymity, and Service
- Tomorrow's World-Courage to be Vigilant

**Cluster Forums:** Southeast was held in March on St. Simon's Island-Great success! Over 125 people attended.

District 17 Cluster Forum-April at the Tara Club in Atlanta. Despite really bad weather, we had a great time!

**Two Cluster Forums Remain for 2019:**

East Central- June 29, 2019 Lewis Memorial United Methodist Church in Evans -Flyer online at [aageorgia.org](http://aageorgia.org) and in the Georgia Message

Northwest- August 2019 NOW Club Douglasville – Flyer will be posted June 1

Don't forget to get registered for the **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”**

**Upcoming Area Functions:**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Corrections Certification               | May 25<br>GSSA Office Macon  |
| Treatment Workshop                      | June 22<br>Dublin Technical Facility                                   |
| East Central Cluster Forum              | June 29<br>Lewis Memorial United Methodist<br>Church<br>Evans, Georgia |
| PI/CPC Workshop                         | July 20<br>24 <sup>th</sup> St. Clubhouse<br>Athens, Georgia           |
| 44 <sup>th</sup> Atlanta Round-up       | Aug 1-4<br>Westin Perimeter North<br>Atlanta, Georgia                  |
| AI-ANON State Convention                | Aug 9-11   |
| Northwest Cluster Forum                 | Aug 2019   |
| XLVIII International Spanish Convention | Aug 30-Sept 1<br>Renaissance Atlanta Waverly Hotel<br>Atlanta, Georgia |
| Georgia Service Assembly                | Sept 20-22   |
| SSAASA                                  | Nov. 8-10<br>Lake Junaleska, NC  |

Debi Keane  
Area 16 Alt Delegate  
[Alt\\_delegate@aageorgia.org](mailto:Alt_delegate@aageorgia.org)

**SECRETARY REPORT – TRACY M.**  
**Attendance Report**

|                               |           |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| DCMS                          | 38        |
| ALT. DCMS                     | 27        |
| DISTRICT SECRETARY/TREASURERS | 4         |
| GSRS                          | 225       |
| ALT. GSRS                     | 45        |
| GROUP SECRETARY/TREASURERS    | 9         |
| GRAPEVINE REPS                | 2         |
| TREATMENT FACILITY REPS       | 7         |
| CORRECTIONAL FACILITY REPS    | 13        |
| COMMUNICATIONS                | 2         |
| PI/CPC REPS                   | 5         |
| ARCHIVE REPS                  | 4         |
| MEMBERS                       | <u>28</u> |
| TOTAL                         | 409       |

**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](http://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](mailto:districtminutes@aageorgia.org).

**GSSA BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

The minutes from the GSSA Business Meeting will be available online before the 1<sup>st</sup> of June. This will give you accurate information to take back to your groups and districts.

**DISTRICT E-MAIL**

Our preferred form of communication with you is thru your district email box accessible by going to the [aageorgia.org](http://aageorgia.org) website>homepage>service tab>webmail login> [district \\_\\_@aageorgia.org](mailto:district__@aageorgia.org).

**COMMUNICATION**

Thank you for helping us carry the message with accurate information. We appreciate your service.

**TEASURER REPORT - Christy G.**

These are our numbers as of April 2019.



**AREA 16**  
GEORGIA STATE SERVICE ASSEMBLY

○

**INCOME**

|                                   | <b>2019<br/>Budget</b> | <b>2019<br/>Actual</b> | <b>2019<br/>Difference</b> |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Ordinary<br>Income                | \$55,573.51            | \$60,146.86            | \$4,573.35                 |
| Literature Income<br>and Interest | \$38,550.00            | \$37,713.92            | (\$836.08)                 |
| Total<br>Income                   | \$94,123.51            | \$97,860.78            | \$3,737.27                 |

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



**EXPENSES**

|                       | <b>2019<br/>Budget</b> | <b>2019<br/>Actual</b> | <b>2019<br/>Difference</b> |
|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| COMMITTEES            | \$10,120.00            | \$8,747.99             | (\$1,372.01)               |
| ASSEMBLY              | \$14,425.48            | \$13,249.28            | (\$1,176.20)               |
| OPERATIONS            | \$37,262.01            | \$38,658.70            | \$1,396.69                 |
| LITERATURE            | \$32,387.50            | \$23,499.65            | (\$8,887.85)               |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b> | <b>\$94,194.99</b>     | <b>\$84,155.62</b>     | <b>(\$10,039.37)</b>       |



**EXPENSES  
BY COMMITTEE**

|                  | <b>2019<br/>Budget</b> | <b>2019<br/>Actual</b> | <b>2019<br/>Difference</b> |
|------------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| OFFICE COMMITTEE | \$2,726.66             | \$2,162.36             | (\$564.30)                 |
| PI/CPC           | \$630.00               | \$416.14               | (\$213.86)                 |
| COMMUNICATIONS   | \$1,976.66             | \$1,025.35             | (\$951.31)                 |
| TREATMENT        | \$980.00               | \$772.50               | (\$207.50)                 |
| CORRECTIONS      | \$1,163.33             | \$577.75               | (\$585.58)                 |
| ARCHIVES         | \$830.00               | \$1,147.41             | \$317.41                   |
| GRAPEVINE        | \$546.66               | \$279.93               | (\$266.73)                 |
| MISCELLANEOUS    | \$1,266.66             | \$2,366.55             | \$1,099.89                 |



## TOTALS

|                   | 2019<br>Budget | 2019<br>Actual | 2019<br>Difference |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| TOTAL<br>INCOME   | \$94,123.51    | \$97,860.78    | \$3,737.27         |
| TOTAL<br>EXPENSES | \$94,194.99    | \$84,155.62    | (\$10,039.37)      |
| DIFFERENCE        | (\$71.48)      | \$13,705.16    | \$13,633.68        |



## GSSA RESERVE FUND

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Current Reserve Fund Balance<br>(as of April 2019) | \$164,908.19 |
| Operating Expenses<br>(as of 12/31/2018)           | \$178,130.39 |
| Months of Operating Expense                        | 11.11        |



PREPAID CONVENTION

**2019 Total Contributions**                      **\$13,936.43**

**Reserve Fund Balance**                      **\$121,435.73**  
(as of April 2019)

**Number of Conventions per Reserve Balance**    **3.03**  
(based on a 3-year rolling average of \$40,100.73)



*Thank You!*

## **Review of Assembly Procedures**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Approval of Duluth Bid for 2021-Prepaid Convention**

Presented by Shannon G., Alt. DCM 6C

As instructed in the Georgia AA Service Manual we have confirmation in writing from The Forum including the exact dates, 10/22 – 10/24 2021, location, The Forum Duluth, and the capacity of the auditorium, 1900 people.

We have been in constant contact with the Embassy Suites and are waiting on their proposal in writing. They have confirmed that our dates are available and we can get a room block with them. They provide a free breakfast. We have also been in contact with the Holiday Inn as well.

We look forward to seeing everyone in Duluth.

Show of hands in favor of bid.

All in favor

#### **Motion to be voted on.**

**Ernie** - In January, there was an Ad Hoc Committee that brought a report on this motion:

**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.”

By appointing the Ad Hoc Committee Our Delegate got the consensus of the Ad Hoc Committee which reported to this Assembly in favor of **considering** the proposal of the meeting guide. Every motion requires a vote.

Show of Hands in favor of Motion

Only 1 opposed

**Motion Passed**

No discussion

## **New Business**

### **Nominations for Delegate**

Second year DCMs available for election:

Mitch Miller 7B

Jim Turner 16B

Deborah Keane - Current Alt-Delegate available for election

Service resumes will appear in the next two Messages

### **General Sharing**

Daniel L., 16E, GSR, A Vision for You

There are 752 thousand veterans in the state of Georgia. It is 7<sup>th</sup> in the nation. There are 88 thousand active duty, personnel, reservist, and National Guard in the state of Georgia, 5<sup>th</sup> in the nation. There are 38 thousand civilians that work on these posts. We are 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation. It is my experience as a Veteran and prior soldier stationed at Ft. Stewart in GA that the Committees of treatment and picpc are not able or do not have access to carry the message effectively to this population.

Therefore:

**Motion:** I make a motion that the 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 chairpeople found on pages 25-26 of the Georgia State Service Manual.

Motion seconded by: George C., 16C, GSR Sweetwater Group

**Discussion**

Patrick, 16C, GSR Easy 123 Group, I'm a Veteran with 11 years in the Navy. I was discharged for alcohol related abuse and did military in facility treatment that was nothing like the program. I concur that there is a lack of outreach to military facilities. I am for the motion.

**Denny M.**, District 5C, GSR Don't Drink Liquor Club Group. I am a former Marine. I got kicked out because the Marine Corp had a problem with my drinking. That was before I was an alcoholic. A lot of Veterans commit suicide. 22 per day a lot of which is alcohol and drug related. We need this committee. I support it. Thank you.

**Jim B.**, District 1B DCM When I was in the Military, we had no outreach to us. The authorities had absolutely no idea what to do with an alcoholic back then. What they did to me was prosecute instead of treat. We also have a Marine base in our district. We have very limited access. We have a member that works out there but as far as being able to have access to the base it's very difficult. We've struggled with it. I think this Committee would be a very good thing.

**Scott**, Alt. GSR 3<sup>rd</sup> Step Group Brunswick GA District 3A I'm a former Marine. When I was in the start of my Alcoholism, I was really grateful that I had a commanding officer that protected me, but he said that I needed to get some type of help. When I was in, they didn't have a lot of anything related to recovery. They mostly wanted to prosecute you and try to get you out of the military. I'm grateful my commanding officer protected me and that didn't happen. I think we should be able to bring meetings to military bases. I live in Brunswick. The closest military base to me in St. Mary is King's Bay. When I used to live in St. Mary's I saw a lot of Sailors and Marines who were alcoholic. They wouldn't admit to it but I saw the tendencies. If we could bring meetings to surrounding military bases it would help. I'm very much for this committee. Thank you.

**Karen A.**, Alt. DCM 11B- I am a veteran. I support this motion. I think our Public Information Committee does an outstanding and excellent job and has been. I think our Communications Board does an excellent job. I think our staff in front of us does an excellent job. This is far reaching and broad problem and our state is a large state. I think that the creation of this Committee would be

overwhelming and essential for us and is definitely needed. GA leads the way and the US Army leads the way and we would be representative of that. Thank you.

**Fred**, GSR New Hope Honesty Group Atlanta I am a veteran and I support the Committee and what you all are trying to do because in Savannah I have seen a lot of veterans try to commit suicide on account of alcohol and if this thing could get going I think we could do a little better job and save some of our veteran's lives. Thank you.

**Tom**, DCM 2B I wholeheartedly support the establishment of an Armed Forces Committee. Being retired, I had the honor to go through the Army drug and alcohol program. If we can explore avenues to address not only veterans who have served and those who are currently serving and find ways to gain access to certain elements in the army, I wholeheartedly support it. Thank you.

**Steve**, 14D Air Force Veteran. I do not support this. I think we are creating too many committees. I think it generalizes the Armed Forces. It puts it in a box, because what comes next. Are we going to have a Committee for people who got kicked out of the Air Force or keep creating committees? I love my brothers and sisters of the military and yeah, they do commit suicide every single day and it sucks. I've tried it many times. I don't believe we need to keep creating committees specifically and singularly just for one particular group of human beings. People, including myself volunteered. I get enough thank you's for that. I don't expect thank you's, but we volunteered for this. Alcoholics Anonymous wraps it's arms around everybody. Not just one group and then sets another group to the side for a specific group. The PICPC position was specifically designed to carry out personal information and for the corrections and for the professional community. That includes the military because they're government as well. I'm not trying to persuade anybody's decision. I think everybody what they said was really good and very far reached and absolutely heartfelt, however, I think this could possibly stem on to more committees and more committees and more committees and we need to stay in box nice and tight and keep it simple. Thanks.

**Willie C.**, GSR 12A Augusta GA. I am a disabled Vet. I was in the Air Force for 8 years. The West Side Club in Augusta we carry meetings to Fort Gordon. If

anybody has any questions, they can get in touch with me or the West Side Group and I guarantee I'll get you in touch with somebody who's carrying meetings on the base. We are carrying regular meetings there and I think we are doing a good job of carrying the message to the Veterans. Thank you.

**Willie T.**, GSR Liberty County Group Hinesville. I'd like to support this motion. I'm a veteran alcoholic. I drank until I got out of the military and a few years after. Before I left the Military I more or less begged them to put me in a 30-day program. At that time, they wouldn't do it. They sent me back to my unit. I'm grateful that I'm here to talk about this today. I support this motion. I believe that if it's not a chair or committee, there does need to be better access to our military brothers and sisters. I live right beside Fort Stewart the biggest Military installation on the East Side of The United States. We do have a lot of Soldiers killing themselves that involve alcohol and other outside issues. Whether or not this is a Chair Committee it is an issue that needs to be addressed. As far as subsets of the population corrections is also a subset of the population. To say that I don't necessarily think its catering. That's all I got. Thank You.

**Charles G.**, GSR 11B I support the motion. I'm a Veteran. I've also had trouble with the Military. I work at the Atlanta VA Medical Center. I see a lot of Veterans there. There is some help for them but I feel like every little bit helps. These Soldiers come back having seeing things we never even thought about. Done things we never even think about. They need help any way they can. Anything that can be put together to help them recover, I'm all for it. Thank you.

**Dan**, 12b, GSR, In Step Group. Retired Military. By the Grace of God and the AA program and the fellowship of AA in Augusta GA I was able to retire. Not knowing I had a problem 4 years before retirement, made a big difference. Our community is very supportive of the Military Service. Due to security purposes and other on Base restrictions it's very difficult to get meetings (people without a military ID) on base to share. It wouldn't hurt because it's more service work. I think we should share it with our other members, bring it back to our GSR's and home groups and discuss it further. As far as service work goes, those that want to do, do, and those that don't, well if it's a good thing it will stay and if it doesn't work out it will go away just like everything else. But we need a group conscious

coming from the people who are not here that we represent. Thank you for letting me share.

**Micah G.**, Co-Chair PICPC Area 16. I wanted to comment on the potential option for existing sub-committees. The committees depending on what the scope of what's involved with this particular area. We have existing sub-committees in our Web Committee and also in our Archive and I wondered if it would be a possible option to have a sub-committee that specialized with this. Thank you.

**Max S.**, Chair PICPC Area16. I am for this motion. A lot of what the Military people know here and what the civilians don't is that a Military post is a closed circuit. If we're not adding to it it's not going to be there. Taking one meeting a week to a Hospital on a post is not outreach to a Military post. I never got assigned to the 13<sup>th</sup> floor of Eisenhower Medical Center. I've taken many meetings in there but that's not outreach to the post. The fact is 22 soldiers a day are committing suicide and most of them are alcohol and drug related. PICPC obviously cares very much about the Military Post here and there is more that can be done. That's all I have to share. Thanks.

**Ernie-** I will give the Motion to our State Delegate to Appoint an Ad Hoc Committee to further study the motion and bring a report back to our September Assembly.

**Mark H.**, 7B, GSR, Byron Warehouse Group

**Motion:** I make a motion that Area 16 participate in a mobile app called "Meeting Guide".

**Jennifer B.**, 7A, GSR, Northside Group, seconded the motion.

**Ernie** called for a vote (no manual change involved)

Show of hands (vote)

No Minority Opinion shared

Motion Passed

**Ernie-** This will now be referred to The Office Committee who will oversee the implementation of the mobile app to best serve the needs of Area 16.

**John R.**, District 9, Swainsboro Group, I've come to this mike numerous times and I will continue to come to this assembly to strongly urge this body of GSR's and DCM's that when we can please try to bring us back to 8 cluster forums per year. We have been right at the cusp of being able to do this for several years. It was a financial decision 4 or 5 years ago to cut back to every other year. It is part of our responsibility to carry the message. I've heard the majority of the people attending these cluster forums are beginners getting a chance to learn more about the service structure of AA. When we can as a body, please let's try to make this possible to bring back 8 cluster forums a year. Last year the closest cluster forum to our area was 150 to 175 miles away. I urge y'all to take this back to your groups. Thank you for letting me share.

**Ernie-** The Budget and Finance Committee sets our Budget. If you have questions or request to submit to them please do so before they meet the 1<sup>st</sup> of August by sending a note to our Area 16 Treasurer at [treasurer@aageorgia.org](mailto:treasurer@aageorgia.org).

**Ben G.**, GSR Hokey Pokey Group in Athens,

Motion to close

**Amy S.**, GSR, Greenhouse Group

Seconded motion to close.

Adjourned

