

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

Confidential for members  
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## A Message of Gratitude

**By Rick M.  
Area 16 Delegate**

I recently re-read a Box 459 article on Gratitude and in it was stated "There is no timeframe on an A.A. member's gratitude, no expiration date, and AAs have long been focusing on Thanksgiving week (November in the U.S. and October in Canada) as a tangible time to highlight their gratitude for A.A. and recovery and to turn that gratitude into action."

As you read this, we will have had a terrific time at the 66<sup>th</sup> Georgia Pre-Paid Convention in Savannah. The committee worked very hard to make this a fun and successful event; it really paid off! November 2<sup>nd</sup> we will have our Planning meet-

ing and vote on our 2020 budget. At this same meeting, we will be introduced to the new incoming Co-chairs for Archives, Communications, PI/CPC, and Grapevine. They will be presented at the January assembly for acceptance by the GSRs. Thank you for the willingness to serve.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all those trusted servants currently serving and those rotating out of their positions. Hopefully "rotating out" does not mean "no longer active in service". I would like to thank Rebecca T. for her service this past eight years on the office committee. I felt the office committee tapped into her experience, strength, and hope every chance we could and she always responded with what we

needed. I would also like to thank Max S. (PI/CPC), Robert M. (Grapevine), Dianne M. (Communications/Web), and Fred I. (Archives) for their leadership as Chair of their respective committees. I am truly grateful for all the hard work each of you has put in to make your service committees available to the A.A. groups of Area 16. All of our committees are the "backbone" of our service to Area 16 groups.

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

## Conference Themes

**By Debi K.  
Area 16 Alternate Delegate**

Each year, our General Service Conference (GSC) votes on a theme for the next year's conference. Area 16 votes on adopting the GSC theme for our Cluster Forums and our Georgia Prepaid Convention. This year, our theme was *Our Big Book—80 years, 71 Languages*. Topics included: *Yesterday's World—Our Legacies Begin, Today's World—Demonstrating Integrity, Anonymity, and Service, and Tomorrow's World—Courage to be Vigilant*. The first General Service Conference theme, *Genuine Faith—It Begins*

*as an Experiment and Ends as an Experience* was identified in April 1951. The First General Service Conference met, beginning a five-year experimental period to link the AA trustees with the entire Fellowship. Half of the area delegates representing the United States and Canada were seated that year and had wisely deferred making several decisions. They provided patterns for conducting future meetings, devising a simple means of selecting Conference committees and in developing Conference Advisory Actions for the information and guidance of the trustees. It was an experiment back in 1951 that has grown to what the GSC is today,

with full representation from the Delegates for each Area.

The General Service Conference began many years ago and will continue to be the voice of the Fellowship for as long as it is needed. The Conference works to keep the group conscience alive and well in AA, as a whole, so that the message of hope will reach all who suffer from the disease of alcoholism.

In order to share the Conference theme and topics with members who may not be able to come to our Georgia Service Assembly, we hold Cluster Forums. We held four Cluster Forums this year with a total attendance of just over 300

**Continued on Page 5**

## TREASURER / [treasurer@aageorgia.org](mailto:treasurer@aageorgia.org)

### Prudent Reserve Met

By Christie G., Chair  
Area 16 Treasurer

Congratulations to Area 16 for reaching a twelve-month prudent reserve. It could not have been done without your continue support to GSSA. This is the first time in the history of Georgia AA that we have made the twelve months of prudent reserve.

But I do call for caution. Area 16 still needs your support for our committees in their Area Workshops they are wanting to plan. There are some in our fellowship that want to see the eight cluster forums back in the budget. This all takes contributions increasing a little each year.

Total Income as of August 2019 was \$189,852.51. Total expenses were \$166,248.12, for a net income of \$23,604.39. We are over budget by \$23,747.35. This is due to wise spending of all the committees (Thank You) and we are over budget by \$8,279.94 in Contributions. Thank You Area 16 for all your help. You are the

reason we reached goal number 1. Now let's see if we can reach goal number 2.

You can know make your Birthday Contributions on line at [www.aageorgia.org](http://www.aageorgia.org). First you go to the web site. Then you select Contribute. Then you select "I acknowledge that I am an AA member". Next, you select "My AA Birthday". Then, you enter your name, amount, email, and sobriety date, so we can put it in the Message. The last screen is the payment option screen in which you put your credit/debit card information. It is the same process to make the following contributions: Assembly, Myself (where you can make your Coins for Cons donations by putting Coins for Cons in the comment box), Group, District/Zone.

Again, I want to thank Area 16 for all their help in reaching the twelve-month prudent reserve in the five years we have been pushing for this goal.

## SECRETARY / [secretary@aageorgia.org](mailto:secretary@aageorgia.org)

### Spirit of Rotation

By Tracy M.  
Area 16 Secretary

We are coming up to the time when so many of our trusted servants are rotating out. At the same time there are many taking their very first service positions or a new one. My experience in service has been a journey of being volunteered and then willing to serve. Many times, I thought I wouldn't be able to do the job, but each time there was someone there to show me the way. In service we often learn as we go. Each service opportunity is important whether we are making coffee at our home group or serving on a committee at District or Area level.

I am so grateful to be Secretary for Area 16. I am amazed that I am almost halfway through my time in office. As happens so often as we start to get comfortable with our duties and responsibilities it is time to give the next person a hand up and move on to a new challenge in our recovery.

If you are new in recovery or if you've been around a while but thought service wasn't for you, I would encourage you to give it a try. A good

start can be attending your home group's Business Meetings and learning how your group participates in service.

If you are already active in service, encourage others and show them they can do it. When I was new, I remember an old timer in our group making me the Group Picnic Representative. I actually went to District and brought back every detail concerning our Annual District Picnic to my group. I found out later that there was no such position, but by that time I was involved and a part of. I will always be grateful for that first experience of having a purpose within my group. We learn as we practice.

Please remember to keep your group information updated at [aageorgia.org](http://aageorgia.org). DCMs, please have your District Secretaries send District Minutes to [districtminutes@aageorgia.org](mailto:districtminutes@aageorgia.org).

Our website has a new live chat box on the home page. I encourage everyone to make use of our website.

### SELF-SUPPORT

#### GROUP CONTRIBUTION PLANS TO AA SERVICE ENTITIES

"To help support AA's essential services, the General Service Conference suggests that individual groups, *through an informed group conscience*, adopt a specific contribution plan tailored to meet the group's financial situation." - *Self-Support: Where Money & Spirituality Mix*

Self-support begins with each of us as part of a group. After group expenses are paid, remaining contributions should be disbursed to cover the expenses of our service entities so others can discover the miracles of AA.

Below are sample distribution plans. The group conscience should be informed on the financial needs of each of the service entities when making their distribution decisions as those needs change over time.

#### Group Conscience Decision

State Office, Macon:	_____%
District/Zone:	_____%
Central Office:	_____%
Pre-Paid Convention:	_____%
GSO:	_____%
Total:	<u>100</u> %

Sample Distribution	A	B
State Office, Macon:	50%	30%
Central Office:	-	35%
District/Zone:	10%	5%
Pre-Paid Convention:	10%	10%
GSO:	30%	20%

Mailing Addresses:

**GSSA (State Office) & Prepaid Convention**  
P.O. Box 7325  
Macon, GA 31209

**GSO (General Service Office)**  
P.O. Box 459  
Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10163

*If you need additional information,  
please call 478-745-2588*

**GRAPEVINE / [grapevine@aageorgia.org](mailto:grapevine@aageorgia.org)**

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

## New Grapevine Literature

**By Robert M., Chair  
Whitney S., Co-Chair  
Area 16 Grapevine Committee**

We had a great time at our last Assembly. A big thank you to everyone who came by the Grapevine literature table and to everyone who came to our workshop.

The new product catalog for Grapevine and La Vina is now available. Some of the new books we have out are: *One Big Tent*, *Take Me to Your Sponsor* and *Voices of Women in AA*.

We had great success when it came to the Chest of Hope. Marvin, from District 17, was able to get over 335 subscriptions for Spanish-speaking members in prison. Thank you to all who participated and a special thanks to Marvin for making this idea come to

life.

Let's not stop there! There are so many ways to help members or potential members by using the Grapevine. We discussed ways to do this in our workshop this past Assembly. Two ways mentioned were: keeping old Grapevine's handy and passing them out to newcomers and passing down your read Grapevine's to treatment centers or jails. One person even mentioned putting a Grapevine in a brown paper bag with a bottle of water and crackers to give to the struggling alcoholic we may come in contact with on the street or on a Twelfth Step call. All are great ideas when it comes to ways to give back.

We look forward to seeing you all at our next Assembly.

Thank you all for allowing us to service.

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

## It's Been a Great Year

**By Richard R., Chair  
Karen S., Co-Chair  
Area 16 Treatment / Accessibilities Committee**

There have been a lot of encouraging things happen throughout the past year. We've seen a lot of first-time members both at the Assembly and the Cluster Forums.

We have received emails from people not only in Area 16 but in other areas across the United States who need temporary contacts for people leaving treatment and returning to their home communities. The response from members throughout Area 16 has been outstanding.

I was scheduled to attend a workshop in California. However, I had to cancel due to health reasons. The coordinator for the workshop asked if he could use his experience with Area 16 using Bridging the Gap as an example of how well the program can work from one Area to another. All members of Area 16 should feel good about how other people see

what we are doing.

One question that arises with members when they first get started in this area of service work is how to get started carrying the AA message into treatment facilities. There are several ways; here are just a few:

1. Get a treatment workbook.
2. Attend your District/Zone meeting and talk with a GSR or Treatment Rep about how they got started.
3. Locate the facilities in your area.
4. Call or visit the treatment facility and talk with the program director about bringing the AA message into that facility.

These are only a few ideas. Another way is to attend the treatment workshop at the Assembly.

One last thing to mention: if your District/Zone would be interested in hosting the Area treatment workshop for 2020, please contact Karen or me at [treatment@aageorgia.org](mailto:treatment@aageorgia.org)

## Prioritizing in a Time of Expansion

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

We are so grateful for the amount of enthusiasm and participation in the PI/CPC endeavors this past year. Embarking on new avenues of technology creates new discussions and implementations. We are finding ways of expanding our avenues of service to be available to meet the needs as they arise.

When it comes to efforts put out at the local levels, it may be helpful to determine what resources are available and also how you might distribute them. Prioritizing the needs of your immediate community can help develop a useful plan of action. It is so easy to get excited about new avenues for carrying the message. Selecting ways that we can best distribute the resources to meet the growing needs is one of the duties of service. When making decisions at the group level, we should be asking ourselves: Is the suggestion transparent? Is it voted on by a group conscience? Where can it be found in our literature? These guiding questions can help ensure that the actions are based off informed decisions and that all voices are heard.

We would be happy to come to your Districts or Zones and present or speak during the upcoming year. We are also looking for a host for the 2020 Area 16 PI/CPC Workshop, and would love to hear from you if you would like it held in your immediate area.



### The Spirit of Rotation!

By Diane M., Chair

Chuck H., Co-chair

Area 16 Communications Committee

The "Spirit" or "Principal" of rotation grew from the recognition that service positions are an answer to our Third Step prayer: "relieve me of the bondage of self" and should be shared. But, rotating out is an experience in humility, "we forgo personal prestige for any A.A. work we do to help alcoholics. And, in the spirit of Tradition Twelve, it ever reminds us "to place principles before personalities." (A.A. Service Manual)

It is that time of year for us to rotate and celebrate the growth of Area 16 from the skills and willingness of those who have served and the spiritual growth that will be experienced by those members either entering into or leaving their service positions. Please

join Chuck H and we celebrate and give thanks to/for Lynn S. who served many years providing verbal Spanish translation at Assembly and other State sponsored events; Jonathan W., Web Administrator rotating out and Paul W. Web Co-Administrator rotating to Administrator for their contributions within the Web Committee on toward the website redesign goal and the many enhancements released on the existing sites over the past two years and what will be accomplished over the next two years. I too am rotating out and Chuck H will be taking my place as Communications Chair.

Our celebration should extend to the continued spiritual growth received while serving. There isn't space to include all the accomplishments and each member that are serving on the Web Committee and its development team, oral and written Spanish translation teams, and of course the GA Message team.

I am grateful for having been given the opportunity to serve and the spiritual gifts received through rotation and serving Area 16. And, I want to thank all the team members for your service and support; I will miss working with you all.

Yours in Service – Diane M.

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

### Preserving the Past

By Fred I., Chair

Mike S, Co-Chair

Area 16 Archives Committee

The calendar year is fast approaching its end. With it will come changes to the GSSA Archives Committee. We have made some very useful changes, not only to the collection of Area 16 archivable documents and memorabilia, but also how the Archives operates.

Creating a sustainable procedure and acquisition policy has been an honor and a daunting task. It also has been a personal joy to be part of the appointed committee.

The work being done to preserve and catalog the decades-old taped recordings is progressing and the final results will be an asset to the GSSA Archives. Discovering items that have been buried in cartons of stored stuff has been quite exhilarating. I wish to thank all of the members of our Fellowship who have helped to start this new process. Many thanks to the Archives Policy Committee members, and to those who have gone before me. A special thanks to the Georgia State Service Assembly.

Moving forward, the GSSA Archive Committee will be in good hands and the involvement of the Districts as a networked asset should be to the advantage of us all. God bless and keep you as we, together, trudge this happy road of destiny.

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

### The Grapevine Prison Issue

By Ken P., Chair

David J., Co-Chair

Area 16 Corrections Committee

One alcoholic sharing with another – this is the basis of our recovery. Our first successful example was Bill W. sharing his story with Dr. Bob. We see this almost every day when outside volunteers take AA meetings into our federal prisons, state prisons, and county jails. We saw the results of this service work at the recent GSSA meeting in Macon where former inmates were so involved in service work.

The Grapevine has a deadline coming up – December 15<sup>th</sup> for the June 2020 Annual Prison issue. Do you have a story to share? Getting and staying sober while behind bars is difficult. Showing others how you did so means a lot.

We have two immediate needs.

First, the Corrections Correspondence program through GSO needs male volunteers. Second, contributions are needed for the Georgia Coins for Cons fund. Excitement for AA has led to an increased demand in literature. Many prisons and jails have meetings only once a week — the AA message for the other six days is our literature.

Also, by now, there will be a decision on the location of the 2021 National Corrections Conference. A hearty thank you goes out to all of those that assisted in the bid effort.

One final note: Past Corrections Chair Tim E. recently passed away. Tim is well-known for his professional and AA service to those behind bars. Tim E. is certainly missed.

# THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA

Alt. Del. article continued from page 1

members. Groups prepared talks, skits, and panels to present to the attendees. Our members were treated to great presentations, fellowship, and food! As Alternate Delegate, I had the honor of coordinating with the Districts who hosted our Cluster Forums and I thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the members in each District/Zone. I know I have made new friends around our great state and I am truly blessed.

At our September Assembly, we voted and approved the 2020 General Service Conference theme: *2020: A Clear Vision for You*. Topics align to what we discussed at our Your Voice Matters activity: *Recovery—Who is Missing in Our Rooms? Unity-Practicing our Principles, and Service—Keeping AA Relevant*.

As I pass the baton to Jim T., our incoming Alternate Delegate, I feel so honored to have had the opportunity to support the Districts hosting Cluster Forums. I look forward to the opportunity to participate in the 2020 Cluster Forums and various service committee workshops. I am forever grateful for the friendships I have made and will continue to make as I serve Area 16 as Delegate. Thank you for the privilege of serving Area 16; I am truly humbled.

## Birthday Contributions

### District 1, Zone A

Cairo Group

**Doug H** – September 20, 2014

**Sharon H** – September 20, 2014

### District 3, Zone D

12 n 12 Group

**Cheryl F** – September 5, 1993

**Judy S** – August 12, 2002

**Thanas H** – August 13, 2004

### District 7, Zone A

Primary Purpose Group

**Kristi B** – August 20, 1999

**Norman S** – July 23, 2011

**Tony E** – August 11, 2015

**Joseph D** – August 11, 2017

The Surrender Group  
September 12, 2011

### District 7, Zone B

Sisters In Sobriety Group

**Marianne** – August 22

### District 8

Wrightsville Serenity Group

**Teresa C** – July 1, 2011

Del. article continued from page 1

Congratulations to Debi K. and Jim T., our newly elected Delegate and Alternate Delegate! I look forward to serving with you both. In January we will hear an Ad Hoc report on a motion about using electronic voting (see this issue of the message business meeting notes). The GSRs will also vote on the motion to add a committee to Area 16 for military matters (see this issue for motion wording and Ad hoc committee report). There was a very good and thoughtful report given on this motion during our last assembly. Thank you to the AD Hoc committee for the work you performed on this topic. Over the past two years it has been my responsibility, pleasure, and honor to travel to New York to represent Area 16 - Georgia and A.A. as a whole; thank you! It has also been my pleasure to meet so many of you as we participated in our Assemblies, Cluster Forums, Conventions, and Workshops. Making myself available to you – this has also been one of my primary focused areas of service.

I want to wish you and your families a very happy holiday season and I hope to see you all at our next assembly in January.

In much Gratitude,  
Rick M.

**The Georgia Message of AA is published by Area 16.**

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gssa@aageorgia.org.

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## MACON MARRIOTT CITY CENTER RESERVATIONS NEED A ROOM AT THE MARRIOTT FOR ASSEMBLY?

[Book your group rate for GEORGIA](#)

**TO ACCESS THE GSSA DEDICATED REGISTRATION SITE  
AND RECEIVE THE NEGOTIATED ROOM RATE. OR, CONTACT YOUR  
DCM TO OBTAIN THE HYPERLINK. THE CUTOFF DATE IS  
DECEMBER 27, 2019.**

**ROOM RESERVATION COMES WITH FREE WI-FI**

*Acceptance of the daily WiFi rate when connecting will not result in a charge if you registered under the GSSA Group Rate.*

# THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA

## Georgia State Service Assembly

### Business Meeting Minutes

Sunday, Sept. 22, 2019

Pending Approval at the January 2020 Business Meeting

### Delegate's Sharing –Rick M.

Rick began his sharing with a welcome and acknowledgement of all attendees at his final assembly as Delegate Area 16, Panel 68. Rick then thanked several individuals for their participation over the weekend and thru 2019 and went into a few general comments before giving this detailed sharing report:

#### Conference Final Report

I know you are all eager for the delivery of the Conference Final Report. It is here and is available at the back of the hall

The report is considerably longer than its predecessors, by Conference action, the committee considerations of each committee, along with the delegate area highlights, are printed in their entirety, requiring additional space, whereas in prior years these aspects of the report were simply summarized;

#### Meeting Guide App – Release 3.0

Brought to you by Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc., Meeting Guide is a free of charge meeting finder app for iOS and Android that provides meeting information from A.A. service entities in an easy-to-access format.

Meeting Guide syncs with area, district, intergroup/central offices and international General Service Office websites (some of which are listed on [A.A. Near You](#)), relaying meeting information from more than 300 A.A. service entities directly to you. Over 100,000 weekly meetings are currently listed, and the information is refreshed twice daily.

This app gives A.A. service entities full control of their local meeting information while collecting it in one place, making it easy for anyone to find a meeting. Local entities provide their meeting information voluntarily. Meeting Guide users can suggest additions or corrections to meeting listings by using links provided within the app to contact the local service entity responsible for the information.

#### **New & Enhanced Features:**

- Search — Find A.A. meetings by name or location, in addition to day and time

- Daily Reflections — a selection of reflections by and for A.A. members

- Enhanced location functionality

- Expanded user interface, with a new menu bar and "Contact" feature.

- "News" — Learn about events at the General Service Office (G.S.O.) and Grapevine, as well as information about updates within the app.

#### Call for Stories

The 2019 General Service Conference recommended that "the pamphlet 'A.A. for the Older Alcoholic – Never Too Late' be updated with a revised introduction; current and inclusive stories; reference to online A.A.; and an updated 'How Do I Find A.A.?' section."

The trustees' Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities Committee is seeking stories from a broad cross section of older A.A. members to make the pamphlet more representative of the Fellowship. Typed manuscripts should be 500-800 words, double spaced, in 12-point font. Handwritten manuscripts should be approximately 5 to 6 pages. Please include your complete name, address and email/phone information; The anonymity of all authors will be observed, whether or not their story is selected for publication. Please email your sharing to: [access@aa.org](mailto:access@aa.org) and put "A.A. for the Older Alcoholic" in the subject line of the message. Or, you may mail it to Access Assignment, General Service Office, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163. The deadline for submissions is December 15, 2019.

#### Our Great Responsibility

The first original title released by Alcoholics Anonymous since Daily Reflections, the **book Our Great Responsibility: A Selection of Bill W.'s General Service Conference Talks, 1951–1970**, is now available for order in English, French and Spanish. Publication of this important volume culminates years of research and transcription of archived audio recordings of Bill W. addressing the General Service Conference. Complementing the text are more than sixty photographs and other images from the A.A. Archives — some never before published. Timeless and timely, these 16 talks give fresh perspectives on the A.A. Fellowship in our co-founder's own words.

# THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA

## GSO Contributions

Through the end of June \$4.0 million. Last Year \$3.86 million

## Area 16 Contributions

\$63,977 Last year \$59,837.00

788 Groups

365 Contributing

=46.3%

Thank You!!

## 2020 International Convention - Detroit

The 2020 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous will be held July 2–5, 2020 in Detroit, Michigan with the theme “Love and Tolerance is our Code.” A.A. members and guests from around the world will celebrate A.A.’s 85th year at this event with big meetings held Friday night, Saturday night and Sunday morning in the Ford Field Stadium. Other meetings, scheduled or informal, will take place throughout the weekend in the COBO Center in downtown Detroit.

We know many are excited about the International Convention and eager for detailed information. As the time gets closer, additional information about the Convention and Detroit, our host city, will be provided.

This website will be updated as more information becomes available. Also watch for articles in our quarterly news bulletin, Box 4-5-9, which is mailed to the general service representative of every group in the U.S. and Canada listed with G.S.O. and is also posted on the website.

## Grapevine News

Visit Grapevines new online store at: <http://www.aagrapevine.org/store>

New Grapevine and Lavina Catalog

New Lavina Online Store

Buy Subscription(s)!!

New Book: Take Me to Your Sponsor

Chest of Hope Update:

## CPC/Treatment & Accessibilities Committee:

Interviews with Military Professionals: The Appointed Committee Member (ACM) will be working with staff to develop a process and timeline for recording audio interviews with military professionals to be posted online. Recordings will begin once the process is in place.

Communication with Senior Military Personnel:

The ACM provided an update to the committee concerning his efforts to communicate with senior personnel in the military. The ACM has been invited to share about A.A. at a joint conference on suicide prevention organized by the US Dept. of Veteran Affairs and the Defense Department. He will be sharing about A.A. in a podcast that will be posted on the NYC Department of Veteran’s Services webpage.

## Corrections

Staple-free literature: It was reported that the AAWS Publishing Department has identified the pamphlets most used in corrections and treatment and is actively working on providing the pamphlets in a staple free format.

Draft letter about Prerelease & Bridging the Gap services: A draft letter targeted to professionals in the parole and probation field was reviewed and approved by the committee. The letter is meant to raise awareness about local prerelease and Bridging the Gap services.

The letter will be included as a resource in the Corrections kit. The letter will also be distributed to professionals in the related fields.

## National Corrections Conference Bid from Area 16:

This year the NCC is being held in Houston in the 1st week of November (Friday the 1st through Sunday the 3rd). A large group will be attending the conference and presenting a bid package to be considered as hosts for this conference in 2021. The bid presentation will take place on Saturday night after the main speaker.

“The purpose of this weekend is for A.A. members interested in Corrections to come together, share experience, exchange information, and hear from other trusted servants.

We hope to inspire A.A. members everywhere to get involved in this important and rewarding service.”

## Your Voice Matters: Audit Results

This work will continue, and many aspects of the results incorporated into our committee work at GSSA. There is much that we can do together! You will be seeing more about this in the future.

Rotation The Spiritual principle of sharing the responsibility for A.A. through changing leadership:



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#### Call for Stories

The 2019 General Service Conference recommended that "the pamphlet 'A.A. for the Older Alcoholic – Never Too Late' be updated with a revised introduction; current and inclusive stories; reference to online A.A.; and an updated 'How Do I Find A.A.?' section."

The trustees' Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities Committee is seeking stories from a broad cross section of older A.A. members to make the pamphlet more representative of the Fellowship. Typed manuscripts should be 500-800 words, double spaced, in 12-point font. Handwritten manuscripts should be approximately 5 to 6 pages. Please include your complete name, address and email/phone information; The anonymity of all authors will be observed, whether or not their story is selected for publication. Please email your sharing to: [access@aa.org](mailto:access@aa.org) and put "A.A. for the Older Alcoholic" in the subject line of the message. Or, you may mail it to Access Assignment, General Service Office, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163. The deadline for submissions is December 15, 2019.

#### Our Great Responsibility

The first original title released by Alcoholics Anonymous since Daily Reflections, the book **Our Great Responsibility: A Selection of Bill W.'s General Service Conference Talks, 1951–1970**, is now available for order in English, French and Spanish. Publication of this important volume culminates years of research and transcription of archived audio recordings of Bill W. addressing the General Service Conference. Complementing the text are more than sixty photographs and other images from the A.A. Archives — some never before published. Timeless and timely, these 16 talks give fresh perspectives on the A.A. Fellowship in our co-founder's own words.

#### GSO Contributions

Through the end of June \$4.0 million. Last Year \$3.86 million

#### Area 16 Contributions

\$63,977 Last year \$59,837.00

788 Groups

365 Contributing

=46.3%

Thank You!!

#### 2020 International Convention - Detroit

The 2020 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous will be held July 2–5, 2020 in Detroit, Michigan with the theme "Love and Tolerance is our Code." A.A. members and guests from around the world will celebrate A.A.'s 85th year at this event with big meetings held Friday night, Saturday night and Sunday morning in the Ford Field Stadium. Other meetings, scheduled or informal, will take place throughout the weekend in the COBO Center in downtown Detroit.



# THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA

We know many are excited about the International Convention and eager for detailed information. As the time gets closer, additional information about the Convention and Detroit, our host city, will be provided. This website will be updated as more information becomes available. Also watch for articles in our quarterly news bulletin, Box 4-5-9, which is mailed to the general service representative of every group in the U.S. and Canada listed with G.S.O. and is also posted on the website.

## **Grapevine News**

Visit Grapevines new online store at: <http://www.aagrapevine.org/store>

New Grapevine and Lavina Catalog

New Lavina Online Store

Buy Subscription(s)!!

New Book: Take Me to Your Sponsor

Chest of Hope Update:

## **CPC/Treatment & Accessibilities Committee:**

**Interviews with Military Professionals:** The Appointed Committee Member (ACM) will be working with staff to develop a process and timeline for recording audio interviews with military professionals to be posted online. Recordings will begin once the process is in place.

**Communication with Senior Military Personnel:** The ACM provided an update to the committee concerning his efforts to communicate with senior personnel in the military. The ACM has been invited to share about A.A. at a joint conference on suicide prevention organized by the US Dept. of Veteran Affairs and the Defense Department. He will be sharing about A.A. in a podcast that will be posted on the NYC Department of Veteran's Services webpage.

## **Corrections**

**Staple-free literature:** It was reported that the AAWS Publishing Department has identified the pamphlets most used in corrections and treatment and is actively working on providing the pamphlets in a staple free format.

**Draft letter about Prerelease & Bridging the Gap services:** A draft letter targeted to professionals in the parole and probation field was reviewed and approved by the committee. The letter is meant to raise awareness about local prerelease and Bridging the Gap services.

The letter will be included as a resource in the Corrections kit. The letter will also be distributed to professionals in the related fields.

## **National Corrections Conference Bid from Area 16:**

This year the NCC is being held in Houston in the 1st week of November (Friday the 1st through Sunday the 3rd). A large group will be attending the conference and presenting a bid package to be considered as hosts for this conference in 2021. The bid presentation will take place on Saturday night after the main speaker.

"The purpose of this weekend is for A.A. members interested in Corrections to come together, share experience, exchange information, and hear from other trusted servants.

We hope to inspire A.A. members everywhere to get involved in this important and rewarding service."

## **Your Voice Matters: Audit Results**

This work will continue, and many aspects of the results incorporated into our committee work at GSSA. There is much that we can do together! You will be seeing more about this in the future.

**Rotation** The Spiritual principle of sharing the responsibility for A.A. through changing leadership: From our Service Manual: "Traditionally, rotation ensures that service positions, like nearly everything else in A.A., are passed around for all to share. Many positions have alternates who can step into the service positions if needed.

To step out of an A.A. office we love can be hard. If we have been doing a good job, if we honestly don't see anyone else around willing, qualified, or with the time to do it, and if our friends agree, it's especially tough. But it can be a real step forward in growth—a step into the humility that is, for some people, the spiritual essence of anonymity.

Among other things, anonymity in the Fellowship means that we forgo personal prestige for any A.A. work we do to help alcoholics. And, in the spirit of Tradition Twelve, it ever reminds us "to place principles before personalities."

Reading from Bill's talk in 1966. Pg. s 66-67 Our Great Responsibility"

So, I want to thank my Higher Power, Area 16 (all of you!), and especially my wife Joan (putting up with all my time away from our relationship and my constant travel) for the privilege and honor to serve as your Area 16, Panel 68 Delegate. It has truly been a life-lesson and unforgettable experience in Responsibility. Thank you for, as Bill stated, my Life and for the Growth! **It will be cherished forever.**

## **Recognition of Past Area Officers**

David Morgan; Past Delegate, Joan M.; Past Secretary, David S.; Past Delegate, Tom H.; Past Delegate, Bill M.; Past Treasurer, Gene T.; Past Treasurer, Glenda M; Past Secretary, Office Manager; Tamera P.; State Office Manager; Fran L.; State Office Assistant.

**Minutes from the May 20, 2019 Business Meeting were approved by a show of hands**

## **2019 66<sup>th</sup> GA Prepaid Report, - Liz W., Prepaid Chair**

The 66th Georgia Prepaid Convention will be held in Savannah IN LESS THAN A MONTH, Thursday, October 17-Sunday, October 20, 2019. It will be held at the Savannah Civic Center's Johnny Mercer Theater.

## THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA

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.

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.

The host hotel is sold out, but rooms are still available at the Courtyard by Marriott Historic Savannah. The Embassy Suites and Hampton Inn also have a few rooms left. If you have trouble booking a room at either of those, contact Erin Foster | Sales Coordinator. She will be glad to help you directly. Direct 912-721-0579 Fax 912.721.0594

[savannahhistoricsuites.hamptoninn.com](http://savannahhistoricsuites.hamptoninn.com) | [savannah.embassysuites.com](http://savannah.embassysuites.com)

We have a Facebook page for those attending the convention. You may now locate that page on Facebook under "66th Georgia 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, and historic tours as well.

Terry P. will tell you about your in-house events: Registration will open up at 4:00pm Thursday the 17th. Robert T will start us off as our 8pm speaker. Friday morning and early afternoon with be chock full of workshops, the topics include "Trust God, Clean House, Help Others", "Sponsorship", "The Big Book and Our 12 Steps", and a State Committee Chair workshop. Friday afternoon Francine W. will share her story, and Sheldon F. will be our evening speaker at 8pm. Saturday morning Al-Anon will take the stage. They have invited Denise C. to share. They are also planning workshops throughout the event. Early afternoon Saturday will be two fabulous workshops, one on "The Traditions in Relationships" and the Spirituality workshop I spoke about in January being presented by AA members who are also members of the clergy. Saturday afternoon, Bob M will be speaking, and June G will share her story after the countdown at 7:30. We will cap off the event on Sunday at 10am with Amy D.

Yoga will be offered Friday-Sunday morning's 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.

Becky S is your registration chairperson - we currently have 1325 registered for the event. There are about 60 tickets left for the Low Country Boil, and more than that have expressed interest in attending. The first to pay will get to attend.

Tom R represents the hospitality committee - groups in District 5 will be taking turns hosting the hospitality suite. We plan to have snacks and baked goods available for those attending. The hospitality suite will be in the arena, will open daily at 8am and close at 9:30pm. It will not be open during the major speaker events, but will be open directly afterward.

Please stop by.

Tony P will tell you about the water events - kayaking and paddle board will be available directly through the vendor. There is much interest in these events, but few have actually paid. The guide for the kayak tour is nationally known and has much experience with the salt water marshes of the Low Country. It will be a real treat. Information on these events can be found and paid for via the Facebook page.

Kevin S is the chairperson for the motorcycle poker run - the poker run will be held on Saturday morning. Registration starts at 8am at the designated parking area for motorcycles on the south end of the venue. The \$20 registration fee covers the first hand, a barbecue lunch and a patch. The ride will go for 78 miles and pass through Carolina, for those who like to ride helmet free. 15 riders have paid their registration so far. You may pay on site.

Denny M heads up security - we have a crew of people available to help anyone wishing to have assistance returning to their car or hotel. We realize that it will be dark after the last event, and some will not be familiar with the area and will be more comfortable with someone who does. Please be aware that the Civic Center is a city building, therefore, no weapons are allowed in the facility, even if you have a conceal carry permit.

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.

### **Alternate Delegate's Report—Debi K.**

#### **2020 General Service Conference Theme — "2020: A Clear Vision for You"**

##### **Discussion Topics**

Recovery-Who is missing in our rooms?  
Unity-Practicing our Principles  
Service-Keeping AA Relevant

**Workshop Topic:** Attraction Through Action  
**We will be voting on this theme and Topics for our 2020 Cluster Forums.**

## THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA

We held four Cluster Forums this year which were attended by over 300 members. These Cluster Forums were located throughout the state in Districts 3, 12, 10, and 17.

Our 2020 Clusters will be held in Districts 2, 10, 16, and 13. More information will be provided at the DCM Planning meeting on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Prepaid Conventions**

The 66<sup>th</sup> Georgia Prepaid Convention will be held in Savannah at the Savannah Civic Center Oct. 17 -20, 2019. If you have not done so already, please make sure you get registered and sign up and pay for the Low Country Boil and other activities (kayaking, paddle boarding) before you leave today.

The 67<sup>th</sup> Georgia Prepaid Convention will be held at Callaway Gardens in Pine Mountain, Oct. 2020. The committee has been meeting for a year now and will be ready to accept online registrations at the close of the Savannah Prepaid. They will be accepting registrations during the Savannah convention.

At our May Assembly, we approved a bid for the 68<sup>th</sup> Georgia Prepaid to be held Oct. 2021 in Duluth, Georgia. Unfortunately, there were many obstacles from the Gwinnett Forum that were put on our path. We decided it would be prudent to not move forward at this time. District 16 hopes to be able to host a prepaid convention in the near future.

**Therefore**, We will be taking bids and voting on a location for the 68<sup>th</sup> Georgia Prepaid to be held Oct. 22nd-24th, 2021. In order for us to move forward in a timely manner, we will combine the steps typically completed at the January and May Assemblies.

Thanks to your wonderful support and dedication to carrying the message, we have a few bids we will consider.

According to our AA Service Manual, we will call for a show of hands vote and the district receiving the plurality will be awarded the convention.

### **Upcoming Area Events**

Corrections Certification	Sept. 28th
GSSA Office	Macon 8:00-12:00

Georgia Prepaid Convention Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>  
Savannah Civic Center

National Corrections Conference Nov. 1-3  
Houston, TX

DCM Planning Meeting	Nov. 2nd
GSSA Office	Macon 1:00 -3:00

5 <sup>th</sup> SSAASA	Nov. 8-10
Lake Junaluska, NC	

GSSA	Jan. 17 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>
Macon Marriott	

**Communications Audit:** Your Voice Matters -Next Steps -We will appoint an Ad Hoc committee to review the comments from the participants to develop an action plan to present at the January Assembly. We will align our goals with goals from the strategic plan developed by the General Service Board. If anyone wants to be involved in this committee, please contact me at [alt\\_delegate@aageorgia.org](mailto:alt_delegate@aageorgia.org).

We had an overwhelming response to the Communications Audit and appreciate your participation. It is important that we consider the recommendations that were made in order to continue to grow in our communication throughout Area 16.

### **Secretary Report-Tracy M.**

#### **Attendance Report**

DCMS	40
Alternate DCMS	22
District Secretaries/Treasurers	5
GSRS	221
Alt GSRS	68
Group Secretaries/Treasurers	10
Grapevine Reps	3
Treatment Reps	8
Correction Reps	10
Communications Reps	1
PICPC Reps	12
Archives Reps	4
Members at Large	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>444</b>

Update your **Group Information** on our [aageorgia.org](http://aageorgia.org) website. Our updated information now loads directly onto the **Meeting Guide App**, DCMS have your District Secretaries send in your **District Minutes** by sending them to **[district-minutes@aageorgia.org](mailto:district-minutes@aageorgia.org)**.

**GSSA Business Meeting Minutes** are available to you online at [aageorgia.org](http://aageorgia.org) around the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month following Assembly, DCMS please check your **Web mail** also available online at [aageorgia.org](http://aageorgia.org)

We now have a **Live Chat Box** available on the Home page of our [aageorgia.org](http://aageorgia.org) website.

#### **GSO Guest Rick W. Nominations Desk**

My name is Rick W., I'm an alcoholic. I'd like to thank you for the invitation to be here this weekend!

This is an impressive turnout for an area assembly. As a staff member at G.S.O., and blessed to be able to travel to various areas and participate in assemblies and conferences. This is the largest assembly I've been to.

I'd like to thank everyone here for your dedication to service to A.A., and especially those who are willing to stand for election. You are taking on the

# THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA

responsibility for the future of our Fellowship. I'd also like to encourage those who rotate to stay involved. Don't fade away. Those who are rotating in will need your experience.


Today everyone here is taking responsibility for A.A. When you choose your trusted servants with care, you help to ensure that A.A. will be here in the future. You also ensure that your delegate will bring the voice of the conscience of your area to the General Service Conference each year. This is the only area I know off where nominations are taken in advance. By letting you know who is standing, and publishing their resumes in the newsletter, you have the opportunity to make sure that you are electing the person best qualified for the position, and it's not a popularity contest.

I want to thank you for the sacrifice of your time, and effort to be here. We all have other places we could be. Somebody this morning was mentioning she had given up time with her friends at the beach to be here. The fact that we're a bunch of drunks here sober on a Sunday morning for this assembly is truly a miracle.


I'm grateful to be able to be a part of this weekend. You have all touched my heart. Thank you.

## Treasurer Report—Christy G


We now have a 12-month prudent reserve for the first time in 5 years. We also have a page on our AA website to contribute online.

 <b>INCOME</b>			
	2019 Budget	2019 Actual	2019 Difference
Ordinary Income	\$111,147.02	\$119,426.96	\$8,279.94
Literature Income and Interest	\$77,100.00	\$70,425.55	(\$6,674.45)
Total Income	\$188,247.02	\$189,852.51	\$1605.49


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 <b>EXPENSES</b>			
	2019 Budget	2019 Actual	2019 Difference
COMMITTEES	\$20,240.00	\$13,490.89	(\$6,749.11)
ASSEMBLY	\$28,850.96	\$25,016.25	(\$3,834.71)
OPERATIONS	\$74,524.02	\$73,115.77	(\$1,408.25)
LITERATURE	\$64,775.00	\$54,625.21	(\$10,149.79)
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$188,389.98	\$166,248.12	(\$22,141.86)

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 <b>EXPENSES BY COMMITTEE</b>			
	2019 Budget	2019 Actual	2019 Difference
OFFICE COMMITTEE	\$5,453.32	\$2,921.64	(\$2,531.68)
PI/CPC	\$1,260.00	\$933.00	(\$327.00)
COMMUNICATIONS	\$3,953.32	\$1,433.51	(\$2,519.81)
TREATMENT	\$1,960.00	\$1,695.79	(\$264.21)
CORRECTIONS	\$2,326.66	\$1,057.25	(\$1,269.41)
ARCHIVES	\$1,660.00	\$1,847.18	\$187.18
GRAPEVINE	\$1,093.32	\$475.40	(\$617.92)
MISCELLANEOUS	\$2,533.32	\$3,127.12	\$593.80



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 <b>TOTALS</b>			
	2019 Budget	2019 Actual	2019 Difference
TOTAL INCOME	\$188,247.02	\$189,852.51	\$1,605.49
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$188,389.98	\$166,248.12	(\$22,141.86)
DIFFERENCE	(\$142.96)	\$23,604.39	23,747.35

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 <b>GSSA RESERVE FUND</b>	
Current Reserve Fund Balance (as of August 2019)	\$178,277.18
Operating Expenses (as of 12/31/2018)	\$178,130.39
Months of Operating Expense	12.00

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**Contribute Online**
  
[Contribute](#)

Online member contributions are welcomed at all levels:

- Individual
- Group
- District
- Jan-May/Sept Assemblies

We also have a tradition of contributing on anniversaries, to mark the number of years in sobriety. Thank you!

The seventh tradition states: "Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, devoting outside contributions." While contributions cover each group's rent and other expenses, the seventh tradition is essential at every level of A.A. service. It is both a privilege and a responsibility for groups and members to ensure that not only that group, but also their intergroup, central office, local service, district, area, and the General Service Office remain self-supporting. This keeps A.A. free of outside influences that might divert us from our primary purpose - to help the alcoholic, who still suffers. The amount of our contribution is secondary to the genuine connection that unites all groups around the world. (SAAI, www.saa.org)

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# THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA




GEORGIA STATE SERVICE ASSEMBLY

PREPAID CONVENTION

<b>2019 Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$27,579.86</b>
<b>Reserve Fund Balance</b> (as of August 2019)	<b>\$130,820.03</b>
<b>Number of Conventions per Reserve Balance</b> 3.26 (based on a 3-year rolling average of \$40,100.73)	

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GEORGIA STATE SERVICE ASSEMBLY

HOW TO MAKE ONLINE CONTRIBUTIONS  
FOR ASSEMBLY

- 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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**Please continue to contribute.**

**Rick M.** Delegate: Rick received the honor of bringing back the Banner "Our Big Book 80 Years" and 71 Languages, from GSO. Rick also thanked District 6 for donating a new slate for the names of our Past Delegates as we go forward,

## **Old Business:**

### **Ad Hoc Report**

**Motion:** "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."

Summary of Assembly Procedure was read.

**Committee Members:** Michaela M. DCM 13A, committee chair, Bryan S, DCM 16A, Jim B, DCM 1B and Walt G, GSR 10A.

Meetings occurred by phone and email. We spoke with VA and military resources, looked at existing AA literature and reports and reviewed the Area 16 Service Manual. The committee also spoke with another area Delegate and reached out to a resource at GSO.

**Report:** The committee met by phone to discuss the existing motion. The committee also reviewed the following information: The committee first reviewed committee member backgrounds and experience with the military. Additionally, the committee discussed the various outcome options for our recommendation. Tasks for reaching out to existing AA resources and military/VA resources were divided accordingly. The Georgia Service Manual was reviewed to understand possible impacts to the possible recommendations. Please see below and attached for all resources consulted.

**Recommendation:** Reaching out to our different resources proved to be very informative for the committee. Regardless of our various experience and background with the military, we all agreed that services targeting military and veterans were needed. The committee also expressed concern with the amount of work needed and whether there would be the right volunteer base to achieve this work. Additionally, the committee discussed the possibility of adding first responders to this grouping. **We recommend: The targeted assistance for military and veterans falls within PICPC. While we do agree that assistance for active military and veterans requires a specific focus, we feel that focus falls in line with the current PICPC Committee responsibilities. We further recommend that the PICPC committee create a subcommittee specifically for military and veteran affairs.**

## **Resources referenced:**

P50- AA And the Armed Services (pamphlet)  
Newsletter for Professionals from GSO, Fall  
2017 AA and the Armed Services  
Phone call with current Kentucky Delegate,  
Roger W (Retired Military-Army)

**No Discussion. Motion will be voted on at The January 2020 Assembly.**

## **Bid for 2021 Area 16 GA Pre-Paid Convention**

The requirements for the Pre-Paid Bid were read from the Ga State Service Manual.

**Chris Mason DCM District 8, Dublin, submitted a bid for 2021 Area 16 GA Pre Paid Convention October 22-24 of 2021 as follows:**

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Dublin, Georgia on the road of happy destiny. Where Progress is Perfection.

Geographic center of Georgia • Direct access to I-16, Hwy. 441, and US 80. • 5 national chain hotels within walking distance of conference center connected by a walking trail. • 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. Training Rooms • Over 17,000 sq. ft • Flexible hall configurations • Conference Center exhibit hall can be divided into as many as eight individual rooms Lecture Hall • 120 seat lecture hall features tiered seating Classrooms • Six general purpose rooms to accommodate 15-40 persons • Flexible seating arrangements (classroom, theater, U-shape, or boardroom style) customized for your group meetings Board Room • Seats 12 Livingston Hall • Additional 10,000 square feet meeting space. Play in Dublin -Haunted Montrose • Pumpkin Patch & Farmers Market • Golf Riverview • Movies at Martin Movie House • Downtown History Tours • Monster Dash Fun Run, 3K, & 5K • Kayak the Oconee. Nationally acclaimed food downtown with local & chain options from \$5-\$25.

**Gaby McGuire DCM District 3 Jekyll, submitted a bid for the 2021 Area 16 Prepaid Convention on October 15-17, 2021 on Jekyll Island, Georgia**

When the last Convention was held on Jekyll Island, revitalization was underway and not nearly completed. We are happy to say, it has been completed and isn't the same island as before. The Westin, which will be our host hotel is right next door to the Convention Center where the meetings will be held. There is more than adequate room in the Convention Center to meet all our needs. We had 1750 people in attendance in 2014 they accommodated us very well. In 2014, several of the hotels were under construction and remodeling and it has now all been completed so all are open for business and new and improved. The room prices will range from 119.00 per night to 349.00 depending on which accommodations you may choose. All of the hotel/motel links will be put on the web-site for you to choose. The island is both pet friendly and kid friendly with many activities to choose from and of course, the terrific beaches.

There are also multiple shops, eating establishments etc., in the completed area connected to the Convention Center.

Bike rentals are available if you don't want to bring your own as well a Red Bug rentals for buzzing around the island. Some available activities include fishing and boating, the Georgia Sea Turtle Center, Museums, horseback riding, Jekyll Island Arts Association, golf, kayaking and Paddle Boarding, Miniature Golf, tennis and tours around the island.

We know it will be a terrific experience for you and your family and we look forward to hosting you on our little piece of paradise if you so choose.

Vote was conducted by a show of hands. 104 votes for Dublin. 130 votes for Jekyll Island. Jekyll Island won the bid by simple majority.

## **New Business**

Area 16 use of the 2020 General Service Conference theme and workshop titles for the 2020 Cluster Forums: submitted to Assembly for a vote.

2020 A CLEAR VISION FOR YOU  
RECOVERY WHO IS MISSING IN OUR ROOMS  
UNITY PRACTICING OUR PRINCIPALS  
SERVICE KEEPING AA RELEVANT  
Approved by show of hands in majority.

## **Delegate and Alternate Delegate Elections**

Reading of qualifications for Delegate and Alternate Delegate from GSSA Manual Roll call of DCMs for number of eligible voters for their district/zone After roll call there were 251 eligible voters, either GSRs or alternate GSRs. 247 votes were cast. 2/3rds majority is 165 votes.

Delegate results:

Debi K.	210
Mitch M.	25
Jim T.	12

**Debi K. is our new Delegate.**

All remaining candidates stand for Alternate Delegate. Alternate Delegate results: We had a total of 248 votes cast. 2/3rds majority is 165.

Mitch M.	39
Jim T.	209

**Jim T. is our new Alternate Delegate.**

## **General Sharing**

Joan M.- Alternate GSR, Chapter 3 Group, Sandy Springs. I would just like to congratulate District 17 for all the very hard work that they did in putting together The National Hispanic Convention. It was awesome and anybody that didn't go you will have an opportunity some other time but you really missed a great time. I want to also congratulate Marvin C. who is the La Vina Rep. from District 17. He initiated The Chest of Hope, to get certificates to take in to prisons and jails. I want to let everybody know that we collected 335 certificates. That means that there should be approximately 3 certificates going to each of the 93 areas in the US and Canada so they can get them to Corrections and get them into prisons. I know from talking to people that those really do work. I want to also tell you how grateful I am to have served as the Secretary for The Chest of Hope. It was a great honor and a privilege to work with District 17 in that capacity. They voted at that Convention to find out where the next Convention is going to be held. It will be in Chicago, Illinois. I don't

## THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA

know the dates. I'm sure that we will pass that on. On behalf of the English-speaking people I was there with we had a great time. George Jr. you might want to help us. We were thinking about getting a bus together to travel to Chicago for the next Convention. I think it would be a great show of support. Thank you to Area 16 for all your support. We got a lot of support from Area 16 with certificates. I know that when the District 17 Committee goes to Chicago to share their experience with the new Committee that Marvin is going to try to continue The Chest of Hope in the other Conventions. It was a really great experience for me. Thanks again to Area 16 for all their support.

**Motion—John R., Alternate GSR, Swainsboro Group, District 9. I move that the Cluster Forums be returned to Eight beginning in the 2021 calendar year.**

*Claudia K. GSR Lakeland Group, District 16 E. I second the motion.*

### **Discussion:**

Debi K.-Alternate Delegate Area 16, High Noon Group, District 13E. I served on The Budget and Finance Committee for the last 2 years. What we do is we look at the budget to see if we can offer the services that the Area needs and request and still present a balanced budget. We are required to present a balanced budget to the DCMs. A balanced budget means we can go 500 dollars over or less. We looked at the expensed of increasing our Cluster Forums to 8 for 2020 and based on our projected budget we could not do that without going over our requirement. The balanced budget is something that is required by the Area. This is something that we would have to look at on an annual basis to determine if the funds are available to support this and other service work that we would like to do in our Area. I would ask that we table this and let it go back to The Budget and Finance Committee to see how well we can afford to finance these kinds of activities.

Bill M.- Past Area 16 Treasurer. I strongly support this resolution. I have long felt that The Cluster Forums are one of the most important things we do because we take GSSA out to all over the state of GA. We were in Douglasville a month ago and I asked the question how many there had never seen a Delegate before and roughly a third of the room raised their hand. It's important for Rick to be seen in Douglasville and all over everywhere. Just like the other Rick is the face of GSO. Now we know when someone says GSO, Rick worked up there. We have a face to put with that entity out there. It's one of the greatest things we do about spreading the word about what we do out there in GSSA about carrying the message. I have long felt that we've got plenty of prudent reserve and we can make the rest of it work without damaging the fellowship in any major way. I strongly, strongly, recommend that we go back to 8 Cluster Forums.

Tom H.- Past Delegate. Two things really quick. If we could implement the two-minute time for people on the floor, especially me. I know that this does not require a manual change. In typical fashion that would mean that we

would vote today and make a decision. I just want to encourage in maybe more than tabling that the Chair to take liberty and make sure that a study committee takes a look at this before we make a decision today.

Kim- DCM 12A. What is the difference in the cost between 4 Cluster Forums and 8?

Christy -Area 16 Treasurer-The cost of 4 additional Cluster Forums is 4 thousand dollars total. It's one hundred dollars per person we send times 10 people for travel. So, when we are talking about additional contributions that's what I'm talking about. The way the Budget and Finance Committee works is that we take 3 years of contributions and multiply by 2 percent. The contributions average has been about 154 thousand dollars what the budget for 2020 was. Your DCMs have that budget. You all will be looking at it over the next few months. With the constraint of being 500 dollars either way we have to come up where our contributions are up 4000 extra dollars to be able to sustain the extra Cluster Forums. I am all for putting on 4 extra somethings. Now what it is I don't know. I do believe our Delegate and Alternate Delegate need to get out to the Area. That should be goal number 2 for our Area. Right now, The Budget and Finance Committee is saying that it's not in the finances. That doesn't mean that the DCMs don't put it out there. The DCMs are ultimately responsible for that budget. That's important to understand as well. Thank you.

Chris M.- DCM District 8. Our primary purpose is to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic. In the past few years the figures I've heard about Cluster Forums at least half to 75 percent of the attendees are first time people. That's when they get to meet these people up on the dais because we can't get them here but we can get them there. Like Christy was saying a vote for more Cluster Forums means that I am voting that I will contribute more to pay for them. It's something I feel is needed. I need to remember if I vote for them, I am voting to fund them. Thank you.

George Smith Jr.- DCM 13G. I wanted to bring up a couple of other points really quick about this whole motion. The finances obviously as everybody said is one issue to consider. I want to also point out a couple of other pros and cons to consider on this motion. What is the attendance at these Cluster Forums? 13G hosted a Cluster Forum in the Atlanta area last year. Anybody that has done this knows that there is a lot of work that goes into putting on these Cluster Forums. The last thing you want to see happen is when there is not a lot of attendance. I do agree with Bill that we do want to create a platform for people who may be new to these kinds of things to come and see who

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the Delegate and Alternate Delegate is. At the same time when you have 8 Cluster Forums in a year it spreads everything out even more causing the attendance to go down even more because there is so many of them. The other side is that it reaches all over the State. I just wanted to bring that up for everybody to consider.

Ernie-That is a motion. It is not a manual change. It could be voted on if so desired today. If there is a motion to table it till the next Assembly that would give the opportunity for the Budget Committee to sit down and re-look at it to see if it could be financially possible. At this point the budget is done for 2020, therefore we could not do the extra Cluster Forums because it is already made out and gone to the DCMs. If the Assembly wants to vote on this today, so be it. If they want to postpone it so we can have a committee look at the feasibility then I would need a motion to table it for that purpose.

**Motion—Krista C. GSR Moon Road Group, District 6. I make a motion to table this.**

Jim M. GSR On Awakening Group, District 3A, I second this motion.

Ernie-The motion is tabled.  
Further study and a report and recommendation to come back at the January Assembly.  
May I have a show of hands of those in favor of tabling this motion till January?

*Vote to table the motion was approved by a show of hands.*

The Motion will be handed over to the Delegate to appoint a study Committee and bring their report with their recommendation back in January.

Jennifer Schmidt- 16A GSR Primary Purpose Group Clarkesville GA. I would like to bring up something we tried earlier a couple of years ago which is to electronically vote for the elections. We had a Committee. We voted it down. I've been working on websites for a couple of decades. I worked on ours for a while. I contributed to GSSA this morning on our website. It was not difficult. I don't think it would be difficult to vote here electronically either. I'm guessing 80 percent of the people in here have an email. An email is unique to you just like your social security number. There is a way to make it password protected. We can have it be safe. It would save a tremendous amount of time, staples, and tiny pieces of paper.

**Motion—Jennifer Schmidt-16A GSR Primary Purpose Group Clarkesville GA I am making a motion to re-create the ad-hoc committee to re-examine and look into electronic voting for us for our Business Meetings.**

Ernie—If I may. *Point of order.* 2002 and 2003, there was a motion put on this floor by the body that any motion pertaining to a manual change, once

defeated, could not be brought back up for 2 years. I was present at that time and I have the paperwork that can prove it. It's in The Georgia Message if you go back and look. I would believe the Point of Order would be that we have to wait till at least it's been 2 years since it would involve a manual change for electronic voting before it could be put in again. (there was discussion on the floor as to when the original motion was voted down). It was determined that the original motion was voted down in September of 2017.

**Motion—Jennifer Schmidt-16A GSR Primary Purpose Group Clarkesville GA I make a motion that we form an Ad Hoc Committee to reconsider electronic voting for our GSSA voting. I volunteer to be on the Committee.**

Wording of the motion for clarity was discussed

Jim Y.- GSR Covington Group, District 11B. I second that motion.

More discussion on *when* the original motion was voted down.

John J.- GSR Survivors Group District 13J. I make a **motion** to adjourn.

Ernie- At this point I will not accept that motion. I have something to put before this Assembly. We have a lady rotating out of Service.

Karen A.- Alternate DCM 11B. I have a short comment. I wanted to thank you Rick for your Service. I also wanted to thank you for the Ad Hoc Committee that you created for creating the Veterans position. I wanted to let you know its deep and near to me. District 11B, in my home group one of our members, Christopher, a Navy Veteran, Fire Fighter, and an EMT died of this disease Thursday. His funeral was Saturday. 22 Veterans a day die and a lot of that is due to this disease so I personally thank you not only for your service here but for dedicating to helping AA with Veterans. I want to thank Mitch for standing up and running. It takes a lot of guts to run. Thank you for your time and hearing me.

Tom H.- Sorry for the second appearance. I would just like some clarity, not today of course but maybe in the future. I was at the Assembly when the 2-year moratorium was introduced. My recollection, which I did some outside issues, but my best recollection is that it was introduced by a Delegate stating that The General Service Conference does that. That is an inaccurate statement. There's no 2-year moratorium that I've ever heard of that a motion can't be re-introduced. I think the spirit of that is that we don't want to be subjected to the tyranny of the minority. That we vote something down and immediately someone makes the same motion again. It is not in our service manual as one of our rules of order that we wait two years. I just wanted to say that I don't think that's an accurate statement.



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Chris M.- DCM 1A. According to my minutes, September 17, 2017 was when we voted down the **Motion to Adopt Electronic Voting procedures for one-year trial period**. That is when it failed by a narrow margin. Just for clarification.

Brandon L.- DCM 7A. I actually just logged in to GSSA Minutes and I can confirm that. September 2017 was when we voted that motion down.

*Ernie- I stand corrected on the date the motion in question was voted down.*

Mark G.- District 11C, GSR No Name Group. If we can't find the money to add Cluster Forums in order to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic here in Georgia, how can we possibly look at spending money for a voting program just so we can get out of here faster?

**Motion—Jennifer Schmidt-16A GSR Primary Purpose Group Clarkesville GA. I make a motion that we move to electronic voting for GSSA elections.**

Cheri L.- GSR, How it Works Group, District 7A. *I second that motion.*

### **Discussion:**

Mitch J.- Alternate GSR Vine-Ingle Group, District 7A. Just from my personal experience with electronic voting is how can we secure a website that prevents people from voting more than one time. I've been on Committees where we've done this and we have seen numerous times when we look at time frames when people have voted 21 times in a minute and we know that it was the same person. My question is when we make this motion how can we make sure that this is going to be a secure site that is fair for everybody? Also, we have to take into consideration, how many people are going to actually get this and be able to vote? I know that we're growing with technology and stuff, but we have to look at the fact that not all of this is accurate, especially when it comes to voting. When we come here, we can get accurate voting. When you are doing it on a website that we don't know is going to be secure, although we work an honest program some of us are not very honest.

Ernie-Thank you for your comments. What she is referring to is electronic voting at Assembly. The feasibility and to put that together would be determined by an ad hoc committee appointed by our Delegate.

Rick-Outgoing Delegate-Chapter 3 Group, Sandy Springs. I brought this up to the DCMs 2 and a half years ago. I use electronic voting quite often in the work that I do. An Ad Hoc Committee would be good right now. It's been almost 3 years since I did my research. There is a lot of technology in the meantime. The last time we looked at it, the reason we voted it down was due to the cost. It doesn't have to be the way and the method that was just described by using a website. There are little key fobs that you can rent for the weekend. Each one of you that's a voting member would get a key fob that's secure inside this room

and could not be hacked. When asked to vote for a, b, c, or d, you press that button. You get one vote at that time and it automatically tabulates it and puts it right up on these screens within like 10 seconds after the voting is closed. I think that we could look at something like that again and just see if it's feasible from a cost standpoint. That, I think, is probably the most secure that we could do and probably one of the best ways to do it.

Durenda W.- 16F, GSR 5<sup>th</sup> Tradition Group. My concern was people being able to vote outside the room. The gentleman just brought up a great solution for my problem.

Ernie-The motion is tabled at this time. The Delegate will appoint an Ad Hoc Committee to bring back a recommendation at the January Assembly.

At this time, I will call a Lady who was instrumental in helping me learn a lot when I started working here in GSSA as State Secretary. She became Delegate. I became her Alternate Delegate. When I was Delegate, she was Assembly Chair Person. The last 2 years she has been The Office Committee Chairperson. She has done an outstanding job. She has been a mighty fine mentor towards me. At this time, I would like to say thank you to Rebecca.

Rebecca- outgoing Office Committee Chairperson- Panel 64 Delegate for Area 16-Of course I'm going to cry. I just want to thank you all for the love and the support and the encouragement. I challenge each of you who are in this room and already know about service to go to that next person and say to them, hey, I think you can do this, or hey, come along with me because that's what was done for me. I would not be standing here today on my own accord. It took someone believing in me that I could do it and repeatedly saying you can do the next step and the next. Thank you to all of you guys for the love and support. It also took that Sponsor and those close friends in my home group to remind me that I was an AA member too. When I got out of line or to big for my britches, they were inclined to tell me that I was an AA member. So even though I'm rotating off from up here doesn't mean that I'm rotating out the door and down 75. I'm very grateful to have the opportunity to serve. Thank you.

Stephanie C.- GSR Jug Tavern Group, District 16B, seconded an earlier **motion to adjourn**.

The meeting was adjourned.

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### **Birthdays (cont. from p. 5)**

#### **District 11, Zone B**

No Name Nooners Group

**Mike S** – December 11, 1994

Twelve Step Sisters Group

**Tomma S** – July 28, 1980

**Lesia H** – July 27, 2009

#### **District 13, Zone E**

High Noon Group

**Debi K** – July 11, 2003

#### **District 14, Zone C**

Breakfast Club Group

**Damon E** – August 10, 2004

#### **District 16, Zone C**

First Things First Group

**Shannon G** – August 12, 1999

#### **District 17**

Sobriedad Latina Group

**Maria T** – June 10, 2005

### **Birthdays**

Ian T – August 9, 1994

Terry P – April 30, 2004

### **Things We Cannot Change**

**Tim E.**, Big Book Group,  
Dothan, AL

Past Area Corrections Chair  
Passed - August 14, 2019

Sobriety Date: July 6, 2006

### **Jerome W.**

Past Area Delegate 1986-  
1987

Passed – May 18, 2019

#### **District 8**

### **Mary Catherine “Cathy” W.**

Eatonton Group

Sobriety Date: October 24,  
2009

### **C. Brookins B.**

Baldwin Co. Group

Past Area Delegate 2000-  
2001

Passed –October 4, 2019

Sobriety Date: December 2,  
1983

### **New Groups**

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

Last Call Group

The Clubhouse

1501 Demere Rd

St Simons Isl, GA 31522

Friday and Saturday

11:00 p.m.

Open Discussion

#### **District 6**

2 A Better Way Group

6 West Main St

Butler, GA 31006

Thursday 5:00 p.m.

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

We Are Not Alone AA Group

North Springs United

Methodist Church

7770 Rosewell Rd

Sandy Springs, GA 30350

Tuesday 8:00 p.m.

#### **District 13 Zone B**

A Recipe For Recovery Group

Triangle Club

702 Lakeshore Cr

Atlanta, GA

Sunday – Thursday at

12:00 a.m.

Closed; Friday and Saturday at

1:00 a.m. Closed

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

3 Legacy Big Book Study Group

Tara Club

575 N Central Ave

Hapeville, GA 39354

Tuesday 12:30 p.m. Big Book

#### **District 13 Zone G**

Male Room Group

St Patricks Episcopal Church

4755 N Peachtree Rd

Dunwoody, GA 30338

Thursday 8:00 p.m.

Closed Discussion

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### Letter to Rick M. from Rick W., GSO Staff

Dear Rick,

Thanks so much for inviting me to participate in the Area 16 Election Assembly over the weekend. I was glad to be able to share about the staff assignments, tell my story on Saturday night, and to participate over the weekend. It was good to see old friends from the Area and to meet new ones.

Staff members are blessed to be able to visit so many areas and to have a chance to see how they work. Each has its own tone and temperament, and it was delightful to spend time in your Area, with folks who are well informed and excited by service. Seeing the office and the new archives space was really fascinating as well.

I found your area structure really interesting and effective. The officer rotation path seems to have added a good stability to the area functioning.

The number of voting members there on Sunday was impressive! I look forward to seeing Debi at the Conference next year, and it's good to know that you will be rotating on and not rotating out.

Thanks to you and Joan particularly for hosting me, picking me up and dropping me at the airport, taking me out to meals, and going the extra mile to help me get postcards! Please pass on my gratitude to all the others who helped put the Assembly together. Area 16 is blessed with wonderful trusted servants.

With gratitude for a terrific weekend,

Rick W.,  
General Service Staff

## Georgia Message

Fun in sobriety!

Play the  
Georgia Message  
Word Search

Look for words  
pertaining to service  
and sobriety!

Have Fun!

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

## THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA

### CALENDAR of EVENTS

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

October	17 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>66<sup>th</sup> Georgia Pre-Paid Convention</b> Savannah, GA
November	2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>DCM Planning Meeting</b> Macon/GSSA 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
November	1 <sup>st</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Annual National Corrections Conference</b> Houston, TX
November	8 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> SSAASA</b> <b>Southern States Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly</b> Lake Junaluska, NC
November	16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Annual Gratitude Dinner</b> Hosted by Districts 1A 1B 2A 2B Albany, GA

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