

**GSSA Business Meeting Minutes**  
**Sunday, September 16, 2018**

**DELEGATE'S SHARING—Rick M.**

Rick began his sharing with a welcome and acknowledgement of all attendees at this 3rd assembly in 2018. Rick then thanked several individuals for their participation over the weekend and thru 2018 and went into a few general comments before giving this detailed sharing report:

**Change of Conference Date**

I received the following message from GSO on July 9th:

“The General Service Office has discovered a mistake with our signed 2019 hotel Conference dates. Our current contract is for April 21-27, 2019. The approved Conference dates, as voted on during the 2016 Conference, are April 28-May 4, 2019. The urgency of this matter was discussed last week with the Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions, along with the trustees’ Committee on the Conference. It was recommended that all Conference members be polled as soon as possible.

Following discussion, including the necessity of altering some post-Conference assemblies and our continued attempt at being mindful of major holidays, it was recommended that:

The dates of the 2019 Conference be moved to the first week available to hold our Conference, May 19-May 25, 2019.

If the motion passes, the expected result will be to incur no additional charges or penalties and would allow more time for translations. (If we must otherwise walk away from our hotel contract, there will be a penalty of \$142,000.)

If the motion fails, Conference members would need to agree to change the dates of Conference to April 21-April 27. Again, without additional charges or penalties but falling on major holidays. (Note that in this case, the dates would need approval by polling the General Service Conference).”

The short answer to this dilemma is we, the 137 A.A. General Service Conference members, voted in favor of the May 19-May 25, 2019 date for the 2019 General Service Conference by a 2/3 majority vote. The entire (polling) process was done by email. This means I will be in New York at the General Service Conference during our May 2019 assembly. We did hold a meeting of our Office Committee and some of our Past Delegates and, a Past Treasurer, to discuss this situation (thank you to our Office Committee, Tom H., Patty L., David M., & Harold I. for your input!). In keeping with what Bill W. called “The Committee Process”, two committees had met and decided upon the new date of May 19-May 25, 2019 (the Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions, along with the trustees’ Committee on the Conference). I have faith and trust in their decision and recommendation (I did vote in favor of this recommendation).

In my absence during the May 2019 Assembly, our Alternate Delegate, Debi will take my place. This confirms the good reason for having “alternates & co-chairs” in our structure. I have great confidence Debi can and will do the job of filling in for me. As far as my Report-back from Conference, I’m thinking (not confirmed yet, more to be revealed....) this may give me the opportunity to try some of the “A.A. Technology: Where Innovation Meets the Traditions”. I may create and post a Report-back video & document. Districts, GSRs, and Area 16 could then stream the video and download the accompanying report. I am still willing to travel to your zones, districts, and groups to report in-person.

## **Conference Final Report**

I know you are all eager for the delivery of the Conference Final Report. Our Publishing Department shares that it has taken longer than hoped to prepare this year's Final Report. Essentially, there are two reasons for the longer-than-desired delay:

The report is considerably longer than its predecessors, in part because of all the material related to the Manuscript issue which is included in full as part of the report of the General Service Board; additionally, by Conference action, the committee considerations of each committee, along with the delegate area highlights, are printed in their entirety, requiring additional time for translation, etc., whereas in prior years these aspects of the report were simply summarized; and the unusual confluence of events stemming from additional Conference actions that put 3 totally revised pamphlets, two completely new pamphlets, a bevy of other corrections and updates, and an every-other-year edition of the Service Manual (all items in 3 languages) on the publishing plate at the same time.

These factors were on top of the already rigorous schedule of regular reprints, newsletters, book updates and revisions.

## **GSO Communications Audit**

We have begun to share our general reactions to the findings and to look for ways for the Boards (GSB, AAWS and AAGV) and offices to be better communicators within our principles. We have held a few meetings involving the Boards, the ad hoc subcommittee that I formed, the internal GSO and GV core team and GSO staff.

## **GSO Contributions**

Through the end of June \$4.5 million.

## **Area 16 Contributions**

\$59,837.00

791 Groups

376 Contributing

=47.5%

Thank You!!

## **GSO Literature Updates from Conference**

So, I am delighted to inform you that these three are in process and GSO anticipate the items will be available by the end of August:

23. The revised pamphlet “A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic,” retitled “Experience, Strength and Hope: LGBTQ Alcoholics in A.A.,” be approved with minor edits provided by Publishing regarding use of gender specific language.

25. The draft pamphlet “Experience, Strength and Hope: A.A. for Alcoholics with Mental Health Issues – and their sponsors” be approved.

30. The pamphlet “The God Word” (currently published by the General Service Board of A.A., Great Britain) be adopted by A.A. World Services, Inc. with minor editorial changes.

And the following revised pamphlets have just now completed printing and soon will be on [AA.org](http://AA.org), available to all:

- Experience, Strength, and Hope: Women in A.A.

- Inside A.A.
- GSR (revised title)

There should be a posting on [AA.org](http://AA.org) under "What's New" announcing all this.

### **Grapevine News**

Visit Grapevine's new online store at:

<http://www.aagrapevine.org/store>

Buy Subscription!!

Two new Books:

- One Big Tent (Atheist and Agnostic AA member's stories) Available: September 20, 2018
- Frente a Frente One on One (Sponsorship book) translated into Spanish

### **Manuscript Update from GSO:**

"Dear General Service Conference members,

I am writing to inform you that the General Service Office was recently contacted by a representative of the current owner of the 1939 Printer's Copy Manuscript of Alcoholics Anonymous, inquiring as to our interest in exhibiting the Manuscript on loan at G.S.O.

Expressing gratitude for the offer, I indicated that our existing G.S.O. Archives policy precludes us from accepting or displaying any archival material on loan. Thereby, we would have to decline the opportunity to exhibit the Manuscript.

In bringing this matter to your attention, I have also informed the General Service Board and the A.A. World Services Board of this inquiry and my response.

I hope that you are having a great season of service as you report out to the Fellowship the work of our productive 2018 Conference, and, as you make such reports, please feel free to share this latest information.

In fellowship and service,

Greg”

### **Story Solicitation**

GSO has responded to two 2018 General Service Conference Advisory Actions requesting the development of two pamphlets: 1) A.A.’s Three Legacies, with emphasis on the history of the Three Legacies, how they work together, including personal stories of members’ experiences with the Three Legacies. 2) A.A. recovery experience from Spanish-speaking women in A.A. to include personal stories with a wide range of recovery experience. Manuscripts should be 500-800 words, double spaced, in 12-point font. The author’s complete name, address and email/phone information should be included with the submission. Submissions can be emailed to Literature@aa.org with either “Three Legacies”, or “Spanish-speaking women in A.A.” in the subject line of the message. Alternatively, submissions can be mailed to: Literature Coordinator, General Service Office, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163. **The deadline for submissions is November 19, 2018.** The anonymity of all authors will be observed, whether their story is selected for publication. Thank you for your participation in this process.

### **RECOGNITION OF PAST AREA OFFICERS**

Ben D., past treasurer; David M., past delegate, past treasurer; Diane M., past treasurer; Glenda M., past secretary, past office manager; Harold I., past treasurer

### **RECOGNITION OF SPANISH TRANSLATORS**

Frankie M., Sindy T.

## **MAY 2018 GSSA BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES APPROVED BY SHOW OF HANDS**

### **65<sup>TH</sup> PREPAID CONVENTION (ATHENS) REPORT--Jim T., Convention Chair**

**Dates:** Friday, Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, Oct. 28, 2018, (40 Days away!)

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

- State of the art facility, newly renovated, seating for 1700 (Grand Hall 1-7), On-site Hospitality Suite.

#### **Host Hotels:**

- Hilton Garden Inn: 160 Rooms. *Sold out!!!*
- Holiday Inn: 0.3 mile away, \$109/night; 125 rooms reserved
- Holiday Inn Express: 0.5 mile away, \$99/night; 100 Rooms reserved
- Cutoff date for Reservations is October 5, 2018

**Speaker Committee Report:** Jeff Y.

#### **Speakers:**

1. Bill S., Roswell, GA
2. Tammy Z., Humble, TX
3. Korbyn B., Springfield, MO
4. Kristina W., San Anselmo, CA
5. Clif G., Oklahoma City, OK
6. Lori G. (AFG), Oklahoma City, OK

**Registration Report:** Kelly G.—1109 registered (updated Sunday AM).

**Planned Activities:**

Golf Tournament (Jennings Mill CC), Motorcycle Poker Run, Fun Run/Walk (Sandy Creek Park), Yoga, Georgia-Florida Game Viewing and Meal (\$15). AA and Al-Anon Workshops, Open AA & Al-Anon Meetings. Halloween Dance on Saturday Night (Band). Double A Café (Open Mic). State Botanical Garden Tour (\$5), Georgia Museum of Art Tour (Free), UGAAA Sanford Stadium Tour (Free). \*Information Flyers for off-site events will be available at the Activities Table in the Classic Center Atrium.

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

**ALTERNATE DELEGATE REPORT—Debi K.**

**2018 Cluster Forum Themes**

“A.A. –A Solution for All Generations

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

**We will vote on 2019 Cluster Forum theme voted on at the 68<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference at the Business Meeting:**

“Our Big Book — 80 Years, 71 Languages.”

We’ve held three Cluster Forums this year with great attendance:

Southwest

95+ in Attendance



## West Central

130+ in Attendance

## Northeast

75+ in Attendance

Our final **Cluster Forum 2018** will be held Sat., Nov 10 at the First United Method Church in Tucker from 9:00 – 1:00.

Our Georgia State PrePaid Convention will be held Athens Oct 26-28 in Athens. Please register while you are here at Assembly or online at [aageorgia.org](http://aageorgia.org)

Future Prepaid Conventions include Savannah Oct 2019 and Callaway 2020.

**Talk to your districts about considering a bid for 68th Prepaid Convention in October 2021. We will be taking bids at the January Assembly.**

The information you need to include in your bid is outlined in the Georgia Service Manual as follows:

In January, the DCM makes his/her district's bid for the convention, two years in advance. This presentation should include the exact dates, location, names of hotels or motels, rates of lodging and meals, capacities of auditoriums and other pertinent information including the desirability of holding the convention in a particular district.

## Upcoming GSSA Events 2018

**Corrections Certification Training**

Macon  
Sept. 22 8:00-12:00

**65<sup>th</sup> Georgia PrePaid Convention**

Athens  
Oct. 26-28

**2<sup>nd</sup> National Corrections Conference**

Portland, Maine  
Nov. 2-4

**DCM Planning Meeting**

Macon GSSA Office  
Nov. 3 1:00-3:00

**Metro Cluster Forum**

Tucker  
Nov. 10 9:00-1:00

**PI/CPC Workshop**

Cherry Log  
Nov 17 3:00 – 6:00

**Southeast Regional Forum**

Sterling, VA  
Nov. 16-18

**Grape-a-thon**

McDonough  
Nov. 10 9am-12pm

**Georgia AA Service Assembly**

Macon  
January 18-20, 2019

District 17 has been awarded the bid for the Spanish National Convention in 2019. It will be held at the Crowne Plaza Ravinia in Dunwoody, August 30<sup>th</sup>-September 6<sup>th</sup>.

**OFFICE COMMITTEE CHAIR—Rebecca T.**

Office update

- A new lease has been signed for the facility we are in

- We have 2 new computers with 24-hour tech support
- The unused stairwell to the upstairs floor has been removed, as well as and a closet in the Archives room, giving us more space in Archives and the big room
- New shelving for literature is being made
- We now have a more functional work space in the office

**SECRETARY REPORT—Joan M.**

**Attendance Report**

DCMs	42
Alt. DCMs	23
District Secretary/Treasurer	5
GSRs	237
Alt. GSRs	62
Group Secretary/Treasurer	15
Grapevine Reps	3
Treatment Reps	7
Correction Reps	11
Communications Reps	7
PI/CPC Reps	8
Archives Reps	7
Members-at-Large	<u>39</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>466</b>

**Blue Folders**

DCMs are receiving a folder this weekend corresponding to their district/zone. Included are: forms to update district/zone trusted servant information; and one sheet per group in their district to update meeting information, and trusted servant information. We ask that each

DCM have their trusted servants and groups review the information on the sheets, making any necessary changes, by placing one line thru the incorrect information and writing legibly alongside the crossed-out information with the new information. The folders are to be turned in to Tamera at the DCM planning meeting in November. Your updated information will be changed with GSO, in our find-a-meeting section on our website, and in the Area 16 Directory (which you will receive a copy of at the January assembly). **When making changes to an address, please make sure to include apartment numbers, suite numbers, unit, lot or any other information needed for you to receive your mail.**

**GSO Announcement**—There is an opening for two staff positions at the General Service Office in NYC.

Applicants should be active members of A.A. with a minimum of six years of sobriety. They would work at each of the 13 service desks, rotating every two years; represent GSO at A.A. functions throughout the US and Canada; will be the primary support for the General Service Board and its committees and the General Service Conference.

Minimum qualifications for this position are:

- Excellent communication and organizational skills
- Good computer skills
- Flexibility to travel and work flexible hours
- Ability to work as a team member and independently
- Willingness to relocate to NYC if necessary
- A.A. service knowledge and experience is considered
- Fluency in French or Spanish is a plus
- One position requires a bilingual candidate (Spanish)

**GSO Opening**—Nontrustee Alcoholic Committee Member for Trustees' Committee on Literature.

In part, GSO's correspondence read: "Currently, A.A. literature directed towards Spanish-speaking women alcoholics is being developed. Thus, the committee would like to hear from A.A. members (preferably

bilingual) with experience carrying the message to Spanish speaking women alcoholics.”

Desirable qualities are:

- Expertise in and/or familiarity with the use of current technology and communications tools
- Available time to attend the meetings of the trustees’ committee to which appointed
- At least five years of continuous sobriety
- The ability to work within the committee structure
- Experience in A.A. service, and in carrying the message to the Spanish-speaking alcoholic (bilingual preferred)

**Thanks** for allowing me to serve as your Area 16 Secretary. It’s been an honor and a privilege to serve.

### **TREASURER REPORT—Rusty L.**

The numbers being reported are thru August 31, 2018. In August, the Budget and Finance Committee put together a proposed 2019 budget which was provided to the DCMs this weekend. They will share the proposed budget with their GSRs to take back to their groups and discuss with their members. (The budget will also be online at [aageorgia.org](http://aageorgia.org), and is password protected). At the DCM planning meeting in November, they will discuss and vote on the proposed budget. We incorporated new requests from the committees: new workshops, conferences, literature and supplies. Thanks to the Budget and Finance Committee for their work.

I have gratitude for allowing me to serve for the past two years.



## INCOME

	<b>2018 Budget</b>	<b>2018 Actual</b>	<b>2018 Difference</b>
Ordinary Income	\$112,824.97	\$119,732.50	\$6,907.53
Literature Income and Interest	\$69,733.32	\$81,804.50	\$12,071.18
Total Income	\$182,558.29	\$201,537.00	\$18,978.71



## EXPENSES

	<b>2018 Budget</b>	<b>2018 Actual</b>	<b>2018 Difference</b>
COMMITTEES	\$24,206.22	\$15,316.18	(\$8,890.04)
ASSEMBLY	\$26,871.59	\$27,218.60	\$347.01
OPERATIONS	\$68,994.35	\$68,801.50	(\$192.85)
LITERATURE	\$62,191.66	\$65,275.20	\$3,083.54
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$182,263.82</b>	<b>\$176,611.48</b>	<b>(\$5,652.34)</b>



**EXPENSES  
 BY COMMITTEE**

	<b>2018 Budget</b>	<b>2018 Actual</b>	<b>2018 Difference</b>
OFFICE COMMITTEE	\$5,453.34	\$2,963.43	(\$2,489.91)
PI/CPC	\$1,193.32	\$625.99	(\$567.33)
COMMUNICATIONS	\$5,780.72	\$1,412.00	(\$4,368.72)
TREATMENT	\$1,360.00	\$1,630.49	\$270.49
CORRECTIONS	\$2,360.00	\$1,151.35	(\$1,206.65)
ARCHIVES	\$3,548.88	\$3,365.30	(\$183.58)
GRAPEVINE	\$1,126.64	\$1,077.24	(\$49.40)
MISCELLANEOUS	\$3,383.32	\$3,090.38	(\$292.94)





## TOTALS

	<b>2018 Budget</b>	<b>2018 Actual</b>	<b>2018 Difference</b>
TOTAL INCOME	\$182,558.29	\$201,537.00	\$18,978.71
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$182,263.82	\$176,611.48	(\$5,652.34)
DIFFERENCE	\$294.47	\$24,925.52	\$24,631.05



## GSSA RESERVE FUND

<b>Current Reserve Fund Balance</b> (as of 08/31/2018)	<b>\$163,837.57</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b> (as of 12/31/2017)	<b>\$169,863.80</b>
<b>Months of Operating Expense</b>	<b>11.6</b>



PREPAID CONVENTION

<b>2018 Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$25,478.55</b>	
<b>Reserve Fund Balance</b> (as of 08/31/2018)	<b>\$129,624.19</b>	
<b>Number of Conventions per Reserve Balance</b> (based on a 3-year rolling average of \$37,239.33)		<b>3.48</b>

## **AD-HOC REPORTS**

**Motion**—Have GSSA investigate increasing the availability of electronic means of making contribution at all area events.

### Committee Members

Lisa H. DCM 13H—Chair

Emmit P., DCM 11C

Ron S., DCM 3B

Tom R., DCM 16D

We did investigate the motion as stated but would like to make a point of clarification that the only area event that specifically takes donations for GSSA is the area assembly.

Our research shows that increasing availability of electronic donations (for groups and for individual contributions) is feasible and we focused our research on finding the right functionality at the lowest cost.

In order to provide a recommendation to Area 16 regarding the pending motion, the ad hoc committee considered the following items when assessing donor tools and payment processors available.

1. Ease of use
2. Transaction fees
3. Privacy
4. Ownership/account structure
5. Member management
6. Transfer of ownership

I have attached a separate spreadsheet with the many options that were investigated:

1. Apple Pay
2. Donor Box
3. Give by cell
4. Give Lively
5. Google paysend
6. Google Wallet
7. Go Pay
8. Pay pal and PayPal for nonprofits
9. Square cash
10. Square point of sale
11. Stripe
12. Tilt
13. Txt2give
14. Venmo

From the Box 459 article on passing the digital basket, holiday issue 2017: “Digital contributions themselves are nothing new in A.A. In 2010, G.S.O. launched its Contributions Online system, a web-based Internet application that allows both groups and individual members to make recurring contributions to the U.S./Canada General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous via credit card or e-check.”

Across America, A.A. groups are beginning to make electronic donations available and have coined the phrase “passing the digital basket”. Some of our research and contribution of information (which we did verify for our report) came from the San Francisco bay area ([www.aasf.org/digitalcontributions](http://www.aasf.org/digitalcontributions)). Groups in the bay area and New York are currently using Venmo for nonprofits. Venmo would have been a wonderful option but, unfortunately, they are no longer taking nonprofit groups and are therefore not an option. The Galano club in Atlanta is using

GiveLively that has a functionality that allows text donations to be made to specific groups at the Club house who choose to take electronic donations. The trend to not have cash on hand is growing and it is likely that more and more groups will turn to taking electronic donations due to their ease of use and low costs.

Viable options for increasing availability of electronic 7th tradition donations at area assembly:

**1. PayPal for nonprofits:**

PayPal is already in place for buying literature and taking group and individual donations online on the GSSA website. Currently, at assembly, the state office is setup with computers to use PayPal for literature and Grapevine sales and they could easily take donations. There is a third computer (not currently in use but which could be obtained) that could be set up in the back of the assembly room and could be solely dedicated for taking donations.

**Pros:**

a. It's already in place. The fees for setup and operating costs have already been paid. It would be a matter of increasing awareness and accessibility

b. PayPal has brand familiarity and comfort as well as being easy to use

c. A PayPal app can be downloaded and donations can be easily made to GSSA through the app. This may be more appealing than going through the website.

d. PayPal also offers different credit card payment options. GSSA currently has card readers but there is a tap and go reader that PayPal sells for \$16.00 which links with the app on a phone or tablet and may offer more flexibility and might increase availability to take donations.

**Cons:**

- a. Internet connectivity at the assembly can sometimes be an issue
- b. The younger generation, that mostly use Venmo, may not be as keen on using PayPal
- c. If we had computers setup to take donations there would be the issue of waiting in line- I'm not sure that people would be willing to stand in line to make a donation

**2. Give Lively:**

Give Lively is very easy to set up and use. The donor just sends a text to a phone number that GSSA is assigned, puts in a code that is selected (such as "gssa") and is immediately sent back a text with a link that they can then access and make their contribution. All contributions could be made simply from the donor's phone.

**Pros:**

- a. Extremely easy to use
- b. They have multiple options to help non-profits raise funds including a web page and text to page. The Galano club uses a website but customer service has said that you can opt to only use the text to donate option
- c. Internet connectivity is not an issue as donations are made by text and you just need cell connection
- d. Give Lively does not charge for their services. They are a nonprofit providing services for other nonprofits. Stripe is the third-party processor and is the competitor to PayPal. Their fees are better than PayPal in that they charge a lower fee for American express and using a bank account and PayPal charges a straight fee for all charges
- e. Stripe has newer software and purportedly better security

**Cons:**

a. It would likely be in addition to PayPal as changing to stripe as a third-party processor would entail changing equipment which would have to be purchased and that may incur a separate fee for credit card processing of its own.

## **Discussion**

Hunter P., GSR 13G, Northside YP Group

We have debated adamantly at our group whether this is a violation of the 6<sup>th</sup> Tradition. What are your thoughts about fees for making contributions going to a for profit corporation like PayPal?

Rusty L., Area Treasurer

We pay fees for everything we do—it's a cost of doing business. GSO pays fees for services; GSSA pays fees for services. Bank fees are listed in the budget as a part of doing business. It's just like calling a plumber to come fix a problem.

George S., DCM 13 G

Clarification: the only area event this is applicable to is the assembly. Would we not also use this at the PrePaid or at Cluster Forums? Are these not area events?

Rusty L.

Cluster Forums are area events but the money taken at that event goes to pay for the expenses of the Cluster Forum (CF). GSSA does not take any money from the CF. There has been an occasion where they ended up with extra money and made a special contribution to GSSA for \$10-\$20 to GSSA. The PrePaid is a "free" convention and the PrePaid account is separate from the GSSA account. Yes, it is a state event, but GSSA does not take up money at the PrePaid.

Whitney S., DCM 3A



My personal experience with these types of sites are security issues. I had my account hacked and money was taken out. Sometimes that is not refundable.

Platform	Bottom Line	Ease of use	Transaction fees	Privacy	Ownership/account structure	Member mgmt.	Transfer of ownership
Apple Pay	<b>No: Too many moving parts, different apps would have to be downloaded due to the different phones and I'm not sure what that would look like on the receiving end</b>	It's an embedded icon that would be accessed from the website ; Samsung and android have a pay capability also	There's no fee to use Apple Pay Cash with a debit card. If you send money using a credit card, there's a standard 3% credit card fee on the amount funded with a credit card.	When you pay with a debit or credit card, Apple Pay doesn't keep transaction information that can be tied back to you. And when you use Apple Pay Cash, information is stored only for troubleshooting, fraud prevention, and regulatory purposes.	Seems complicated, more for use with large merchants or companies	Unsure	Unsure
Donor Box	<b>No: Not cost effective. Subsidiary of stripe, will pay stripe fees for processing money in addition to the donor box fee</b>	It's so simple to use. From set up to the donation process, you and your donors will benefit from the streamlined nature of DonorBox's software.	The fees shall be no more than 4 percent (%4.000) per unique credit card donation. A bill will be created once a month with those aggregate fees. These fees do not include Stripe's processing fees You could also use PayPal	<a href="https://donorbox.org/en/privacy">https://donorbox.org/en/privacy</a>	<a href="https://donorbox.org/en/terms">https://donorbox.org/en/terms</a>	<a href="https://donorbox.org/nonprofit-blog/invite-team-members-org-account/">https://donorbox.org/nonprofit-blog/invite-team-members-org-account/</a> allows you to easily change users	To change the login info the original owner of the account can go to this link: <a href="https://donorbox.org/org/update_login">https://donorbox.org/org/update_login</a> . You will find a form allowing you to change email address & password you signed up with.
GiveByCell	<b>No: The cost is very expensive and there are other means that are a lot cheaper to use.</b>	Donor texts a keyword or scanning QR Code to receive a link to a mobile friendly donation page, they complete a form using their credit card information. No donation limits, users can make a onetime donation or set up recurring donations. Users will receive text message reminders to complete donor form.	No setup fees. For 12 months the cost is \$2000.00, and for 24 months the cost is \$3000.00. You also will need a credit card merchant processor. It can be set up where the users can pay the credit card fee which will increase your donations by 3%.	All donations are completed privately	Owned by your organization. Can use our own donation page if its mobile friendly & connected into your CRM. Could create one with their drag and drop builder to create a customized donation page using their tools. Funds are deposited directly into an organizations merchant account.	It is done with a keyword or QR Code and a URL link.	No information on transferability.

Platform	Bottom Line	Ease of use	Transaction fees	Privacy	Ownership/account structure	Member mgmt.	Transfer of ownership
<b>Give Lively</b>	<b>Yes: Give Lively is free, has an easy to use text to donate feature and uses stripe for processing money, the competitor to PayPal but with lower fees</b>	Easy to use, can test a phone number that texts you back a link to donate	The variable fees for those nonprofits who have successfully applied Stripe's discounted fee program are currently 3.5% when using American Express, 2.2% + .30c when using MasterCard, Visa, and Discover ("Credit Card Variable Fee"), and 0.8% with a max of \$5 for ACH/bank account transactions.	same as stripe	<a href="https://www.givelively.org/terms">https://www.givelively.org/terms</a>	<a href="https://www.givelively.org/terms">https://www.givelively.org/terms</a>	<a href="https://www.givelively.org/terms">https://www.givelively.org/terms</a>

Platform	Bottom Line	Ease of use	Transaction fees	Privacy	Ownership/account structure	Member mgmt.	Transfer of ownership
Google paysend	<b>No: Too specific for our use. Google Pay and Google Wallet have been combined into Google Pay Send. It is compatible with both Android and Apple phones. However, you must have an active Google account to use it.</b>	Easy, it's an app	Sending money directly from your bank account or Google Wallet Balance is free, but sending money using a credit or debit card has a flat fee of 2.9% per transaction. Receiving money is always free.	<a href="https://payments.google.com/payments/apis-secure/get_legal_document?ldo=0&amp;ldt=privacynotice">https://payments.google.com/payments/apis-secure/get_legal_document?ldo=0&amp;ldt=privacynotice</a>	Terms of use: <a href="https://payments.google.com/payments/apis-secure/get_legal_document?ldo=0&amp;ldt=buyertos&amp;ldr=US">https://payments.google.com/payments/apis-secure/get_legal_document?ldo=0&amp;ldt=buyertos&amp;ldr=US</a>	unsure	Can be easily transferred
Google Wallet	<b>No, see above, &amp; technically no longer exists. Too specific for our use. To sign up for Google Wallet, you'll need to have a Google account and you can't do a bank account you have to do debit card or credit card</b>	Easy, it's an app	Sending money directly from your bank account or Google Wallet Balance is free, but sending money using a credit or debit card has a flat fee of 2.9% per transaction. Receiving money is always free.	<a href="https://payments.google.com/payments/apis-secure/get_legal_document?ldo=0&amp;ldt=privacynotice">https://payments.google.com/payments/apis-secure/get_legal_document?ldo=0&amp;ldt=privacynotice</a>	unsure	unsure	Can be easily transferred

Platform	Bottom Line	Ease of use	Transaction fees	Privacy	Ownership/account structure	Member mgmt.	Transfer of ownership
Go Pay	<b>No: Too expensive; would need to purchase card readers and the cost seems pretty high</b>	Connects to QuickBooks Go payment blue tooth card reader (cost 50.00 per reader)	1. The first plan has no monthly fee, and will cost you 0.25 per transaction + 2.40% for swiped transactions and 3.40% for keyed-in transactions. a. 2.00 donation - 25 cent fee - 2.40% fee ; 0.30 fee; 1.70 donation b. 96 \$ donation; 14.40 fees; 81.60 2. The second plan has a monthly fee charge of \$19.95, but reduces the transaction rates to 1.60% and 3.20%, in addition to the 25-cent fee per transaction.	<a href="https://quickbooks.intuit.com/eu/privacy-policy/">https://quickbooks.intuit.com/eu/privacy-policy/</a> for privacy statement	Would be through Quick books ownership	Owner of QuickBooks	Same as QuickBooks
PayPal	<b>No: There is a PayPal for nonprofits option</b>	Easy to set up with email address, credit card and bank account.	2.90% + 0.30 per transaction for online donation	Private: users email & name are recorded on back end of PayPal so amt contributed can be seen by admin)	one owner attached to email and password	None	None. Although can be set up to be transferable with the owner's permission.
Platform	Bottom Line	Ease of use	Transaction fees	Privacy	Ownership/account structure	Member mgmt.	Transfer of ownership
PayPal for nonprofit	<b>Yes: This is already in place</b>	Easy to set up with email address, credit card and bank account.	2.2% + 0.30 per transaction for online donation  CC=credit card CCswipe 2.70% CC key in 3.50% + 0.15 CC scan 3.50% +	Private: users email & name are recorded on back end of PayPal so amt contributed can be seen by admin)	one owner attached to email and password	None	None. Although can be set up to be transferable with the owner's permission.

Platform	Bottom Line	Ease of use	Transaction fees	Privacy	Ownership/account structure	Member mgmt.	Transfer of ownership
			0.15				
<b>Square Cash</b>	<b>No: Can only accept debit cards which would be too limiting for our purposes</b>	Very easy: Sign up just requires cell phone and debit card # (Not even a name). Asks if you're using personal or business	None stated	Seems completely private - I can't see anyone else's transfers but my own. Requires you to put in your name to the system, but does not share it externally	Every person has a personal account identified by a phone # or email and "Cashtag" which allows ppl to find them easily	None - this is a p2p service	None, each person has a personal account that is unique to them. Could explore business option
<b>Square point of sale</b>	No: Would be an investment in another system when we already have PayPal. We would have to invest in the readers. The fees are reasonable but there may be easier and quicker ways.	Very easy to use for users it can take payments anywhere and at any time. It has the hardware you need to accept all major credit cards, NFC payments, gift cards and more. Payments can be made by tap and go devices or swipe devices hooked to a mobile phone as well as	The reader for magstripe are free and the cost per swipe is 2.75%. Square reader for chip credit cards are \$29.00. Reader for contactless and chip cost \$49.00 + 2.75% per tap or dip. Manually enter card information and pay 3.5% + 15¢ per transaction. Use a reader with a cell phone or iPad that is in a square stand.	All payments are done by swipe, tap or dip so they are secure and safe. Square Secure provides industry leading security with PCI compliant systems. Card information is encrypted at swipe. Square never stores data on your device after a payment has been processed.	You get the Square Point of Sale app is free, and has tools to help you manage every area of your business such as customer directories and digital receipts. There is also a dashboard you can access to obtain your donation information. You also have customer service available by email, tweet, and phone. There is no merchant account needed with Square.	The user would either swipe, tap or dip their credit card for the system to work.	

Platform	Bottom Line	Ease of use	Transaction fees	Privacy	Ownership/account structure	Member mgmt.	Transfer of ownership
Stripe	<b>Yes:</b> With Give Lively as the donor tool. They have reasonable fees and have a more secure, private system since they are newer than PayPal	Very easy to use, similar to PayPal	Stripe's discounted fee program are currently 3.5% when using American Express (am ex partners with stripe so it's cheaper), 2.2% + .30c when using MasterCard, Visa, and Discover ("Credit Card Variable Fee"), and 0.8% with a max of \$5 for ACH/bank account transactions.	Stripe Users are responsible for making sure that the Customer's privacy rights are respected, including ensuring appropriate disclosures about third party data collection and use. <a href="https://stripe.com/us/privacy/">https://stripe.com/us/privacy/</a>	<a href="https://stripe.com/docs/dashboard/teams">https://stripe.com/docs/dashboard/teams</a>	<a href="https://stripe.com/docs/dashboard/teams">https://stripe.com/docs/dashboard/teams</a>	1. Go to the team section of your business settings. 2. Click the "Edit" button next to the user you wish to make the owner. 3. From the popup, choose the option to "Transfer ownership to this user."
Tilt	<b>No:</b> NO LONGER EXISTS. Airbnb bought the company in early 2017, and closed down the platform in June of that same year.	Once the app is downloaded and the user is connected to the Tilt for the group contributions it's a one-step solution through the app.	There are no fees for membership but there is a transaction fee. They subsidize the transaction fee when users pay with a debit card, but there is a 3% fee if someone uses a credit card.	You can create a private campaign, and contributions are anonymized.	The creator of the Tilt/campaign owns the Tilt.	download app, have credentials to verify who you are through Facebook or email. Members can be invited through a link, a text, an email or contacts.	No info

Platform	Bottom Line	Ease of use	Transaction fees	Privacy	Ownership/account structure	Member mgmt.	Transfer of ownership
<b>Txt2Give</b>	<b>No: Too expensive</b>	The user can give anywhere at any time by sending a text message. Users text the word "GIVE" with the amount to a number assigned to your organization. This is after they complete a onetime registration process. Users can set up a onetime donation or recurring donations.	Plans start as low as \$49.00 a month + 1% flat rate (this works best with donations of \$5000.00 or less a month), or \$99.00 + 0% for volume based. A separate gateway must be used for credit card processing fees. Text2Give supports over a hundred different payment processors in the U.S. with rates as low as \$1.75. There is no contract or setup fees involved.	All donations are completed privately. There is no public interface unless a separate feature is activated that can show overall donation totals. Does not store any credit card information all cardholder's data is transmitted to and stored securely in their payment processor system. Multilingual. System in place to prevent identity theft and fraudulent purchases.	Owned by initial account creator.	Member registrations is done via URL or QR code,	No information on transfer of ownership that I could find.



Platform	Bottom Line	Ease of use	Transaction fees	Privacy	Ownership/account structure	Member mgmt.	Transfer of ownership
<b>Venmo for non-profits</b>	<b>No: This would have been the most suitable option for us, but Venmo is currently not taking new applications for entry. There is a waiting list to be told when new entries will be taken, if they ever will be again. (Note that the list will get you told when you can apply. It is not even a waiting list for the actual program.)</b>	Very easy to use. Meetings could either establish a direct link which directs the group member directly to a payment window with privacy settings and recipient treasurer pre-loaded, or make their account name known to the group and payment within the app is easy and straightforward	None for individuals to group treasurer.	Venmo's privacy policy is here: <a href="https://venmo.com/legal/us-privacy-policy/">https://venmo.com/legal/us-privacy-policy/</a> Of key interest, Venmo does not share your personal information with third parties for promotional or marketing purposes although it is shared with 3rd parties for myriad other reasons of which would not seem likely to break Tradition 12	Venmo has a "Group Accounts" feature that enables to use of Venmo's digital wallet functionality to send and receive money as a group. Details of this are here: <a href="https://help.venmo.com/hc/en-us/articles/217042878-Group-Accounts-FAQ">https://help.venmo.com/hc/en-us/articles/217042878-Group-Accounts-FAQ</a>	Member registration is done via URL or QR code,	Group Accounts can be facilitated by a group "owner" and a maximum of 3 "managers". Owners can change managers and ownership can be transferred.
<b>Venmo for businesses</b>	<b>No: Technically they are PayPal. The fees are the same as PayPal. The app is wonderful and easy to use but it is only for peer to peer and this is from speaking to venmo customer service directly. We already have a nonprofit PayPal account and technically if we went with venmo as a processor we would be paying more money due to not having nonprofit status</b>	Very easy to use. Meetings could either establish a direct link which directs the group member directly to a payment window with privacy settings and recipient treasurer pre-loaded, or make their account name known to the group and payment within the app is easy and straightforward	This can be integrated with PayPal Checkout. The business gets charged 2.9% plus 0.30 every U.S. transaction. There is a lower fee (2.2%) for nonprofits, plus a fixed fee based on the currency being used, IF THE MONEY being given is coming from a PayPal account. The link from this page goes to the PayPal for Nonprofits page.	Venmo's privacy policy is here: <a href="https://venmo.com/legal/us-privacy-policy/">https://venmo.com/legal/us-privacy-policy/</a> Of key interest, Venmo does not share your personal information with third parties for promotional or marketing purposes although it is shared with 3rd parties for myriad other reasons of which would not seem likely to break Tradition 12	Venmo has a "Group Accounts" feature that enables to use of Venmo's digital wallet functionality to send and receive money as a group. Details of this are here: <a href="https://help.venmo.com/hc/en-us/articles/217042878-Group-Accounts-FAQ">https://help.venmo.com/hc/en-us/articles/217042878-Group-Accounts-FAQ</a>	Member registrations is done via URL or QR code,	Member registrations is done via URL or QR code,

Platform	Bottom Line	Ease of use	Transaction fees	Privacy	Ownership/account structure	Member mgmt.	Transfer of ownership
<p><b>Venmo for individuals</b></p> <p>Venmo originally started as peer to peer</p>	<p><b>No:</b> We wouldn't be using it as individuals unless payments were made to someone involved either as a member of the office staff or a Trusted Servant, who would then have to transfer the money into a GSSA account.</p>	<p>Easy to use</p>	<p>Many of Venmo's services do not incur transaction fees, including transferring funds between friends through a major debit card or checking account. However, to cover processing costs, Venmo charges a 3% fee for payments by credit card.</p>	<p>See above</p>	<p>See above</p>	<p>See above</p>	<p>See above</p>

**MOTION**—State Chair become an elected two-year position with the same qualifications as Delegate.

Committee

Bobby O., DCM 6—Chair

Genevieve B., DCM 13E

Patsy G., DCM 13D

Laura P., DCM 10B

The committee looked to three sources of information to come up with our recommendation:

1. Whether other Areas in the US and Canada elect their Chairperson position or use a rotation.
2. Why Georgia established the position of Chairperson and the procedure by which it was first filled.
3. The opinions of former state delegates about this motion.

For the first source of information, our committee split the Areas of the United States & researched if the position of State Chairperson was elected or one of automatic rotation. Out of a total of 93 Areas between the United States and Canada, the ad hoc committee and Rick received responses from 77 Areas. Of those 77 areas, only 3 have a rotation like Georgia's. That is 3.9%. Over 96% of the Areas surveyed elect their State Chairperson.

For the second source of information, we wanted to know how and why Georgia came to have this position. The following information came directly from the archives, and can be found in Assembly minutes between the years 1965 and 1968.

In January of 1965, our state Delegate also had the dual role of Assembly Chairperson: it was one combined position. The State

Delegate at the time, Heflin D., expressed a need to have someone “take some of the workload.” He designated a Study Committee, led by Lee K., to create recommendations for the PURPOSE of “having better communication, and help in the transfer of all business between the State Convention and the State Assembly.” \*This was the original purpose for having a State Chairperson. \*

The 1965 study committee recommended that the State Chairperson be the retiring or outgoing State Delegate, UNLESS said Delegate wished not to serve as Chairperson. In this case the Chairperson would be elected from GSRs and area committeemen. \*\* It is important to note that Heflin D. did not want to roll into the Chairperson position. He expressed this several times. Regardless, he was kindly asked to consider the position. As Heflin D. rotated out as Delegate it was announced that he would, indeed, roll into the new position of State Chairperson. He served in that role at the following Assembly. However, later that same year, Heflin D. passed away. Charlotte D., his widow, was unanimously elected as the new Chairperson. As the end of her term approached in Sept 1967, Charlotte D. was then elected as Alternate Delegate. However, at the following Assembly in January 1968, the new State Chairperson, having rotated out from Delegate, reported that Charlotte D. had found it necessary to take a drink. Charlotte D offered her resignation and asked the Assembly to elect a new Alternate Delegate.

As our body decides whether to accept this motion, this brief history raises interesting questions. A yes vote on this motion would change the recommendation of Lee K’s 1965 study committee, a recommendation that has been followed up to the present day. Why did this committee prefer rotation rather than election of the State Chairperson? Were there not enough sober trusted servants to fill two separate roles? Was rotation seen as the “easier softer way,” rather than adding the time it would take to elect one more position? Or did

the committee see it as imperative to have a Chairperson with experience serving as Delegate? Why did Heflin D. not want to automatically rotate into the Chairperson position? Was it because he wanted to honor the spirit of rotation? Was it due to personal reasons? The archives don't answer these questions, so we have to weigh them ourselves.

For the third source of information, our committee consulted with seven past Delegates for Area 16. Four of them opposed the motion. Rotation keeps past delegates involved, thereby keeping institutional knowledge on the office committee. This is invaluable, they say, for a large assembly like ours. The remaining three past Delegates could see value in election, and value in rotation. They did not hold strong opinions.

Our committee took into account the policies of other Areas in the US and Canada, the history of the establishment of the Chairperson position, and the opinions of seven former Delegates. We have made our recommendation based on the ideal behind all changes to our service manual: to represent the current membership, the current experience, strength and hope offered by participants in Area 16's service structure. We believe that today our pool of trusted servants is deep, and that there are many who are eager to serve, and capable of assuming the position of Chairperson without having been Delegate. Our recommendation takes into account the fact that 96% of the other Areas elect, rather than rotate, meaning that almost every other Area trusts that the new Chairperson can grow into the role. Finally, our recommendation draws from The Twelve Concepts of World Service. Under concept #9 it states, "Fortunately, our Society is blessed with any amount of real leadership – the active people of today and the potential leader of tomorrow as each new generation of able members swarms in. We have an abundance of men and women whose dedication, stability, vision, and special skills make them capable of

dealing with every possible service assignment. We have only to seek these folks out and trust them to serve us.”

Our recommendation:

This ad hoc committee believes that yes, the State Chairperson should be an elected position with the same qualifications as the Delegate. This is in line with The A.A. Service Manual page S36: An election assembly is held at least once every two years to choose a delegate and committee officers. The State Chairman is an Area Officer. The ad hoc committee also recommends the following changes be made to The Georgia A.A. Service Manual:

1. That the Qualifications of the Delegate on page # 18 be renamed to Qualifications of the State Chairperson and placed on page #20.
2. That #5 under qualifications be reworded to: “In office for 12 months of the year preceding election year as a D.C.M., Alternate Delegate or past Delegate who has not served, actively engaged in groups, district and the General Service Conference.”
3. That “Chairperson shall be a past Delegate” be removed from page #20
4. Update page #29 – “Delegate, Alternate Delegate and Chairmen”
5. On page #32 under Chairperson we recommend the following paragraph:  
“To be eligible to run for Chairperson, a candidate must first be available to run for Delegate. If he/she runs for Delegate, he/she must run for the Alternate and/or Chairperson (unless he/she has already served as Alternate or Chairperson) and all candidates will be placed once again on the blackboard for voting. The election procedure is the same as for the Delegate, with no deviations.”

6. If this motion is passed it is recommend that nominations for State Chairperson be brought up at the May 2019 Assembly, to be voted on in September of 2019 and a begin date of January 1<sup>st</sup> 2020.

### Discussion

Tom R., DCM 16D

Clarification: with changes to the manual necessary, is there enough time to make this effective when they have recommended?

Rick M., Delegate

To clarify: when this ad hoc committee was asked to look at this motion, I asked them that if they decided this should be an elected position, which is not within the scope of what was asked for in the motion, but's good sense that you think about what are the impacts that it would make, and bring those back to us in the form of recommendations. I think from the sense of what they are talking about-manual changes and when to implement them, is not addressed with the motion, just something for you to think about and discuss. Right now, we just want to know their recommendation on the motion. Yes, they did do a little research beyond that, but we need to stick with the motion.

Ernie M., Chairperson

On page 32 of the GSSA Manual under Chairperson, it reads: The immediate past Delegate automatically becomes the Chairperson. If the past Delegate does not choose to assume this office, then the same election procedure shall be followed with the candidates coming from the qualified past Delegates." That was not in what you reported as being qualified past delegates.

Bobby O.

We missed that paragraph. We can review and update that one as well.

Joan M., Chapter 3 Group, 13A

Even though this was not a part of the motion, did the committee consider having an alternate chairperson along with the chairperson?

Bobby O.

In our research, we did find some Areas that have alternate chairpersons. We discussed it, but it was not a part our motion. Some Areas did, and some did not, with the larger Areas having an alternate.

David M., past Delegate, Abbeville Recovery Group

From my experience, having gone thru the rotation, serving in these various positions as well as being familiar with Area 1: being Chairperson, and dealing with the assembly of this size, it's very beneficial to have the experience on the dais that we have—it's an asset. One of the positive things about our assembly is that we have our alternate delegate, current delegate, immediate past delegate, and the one before that who have had the experience of the Conference behind them. That's a positive thing. Some items come up unexpectedly, and having that experience on the dais has caused this assembly to move in a much smoother pace. There is a tremendous amount of work that goes on behind the scenes between assemblies and handling things all over this Area that take place. People here don't see all that's going on. From my experience, we are doing it right. Area 1 does elect a Chairperson who then goes on to be alternate delegate and delegate, but they still have a commitment to a length of service time similar as to what we have.

Karen A., Alt DCM 11B

Could we get a brief description of the Chairperson's duties and responsibilities?



Rebecca T., Office Chairperson

Read “Duties of the State Chairperson” on Page 20, Georgia A.A. Service Manual.

Mike H., 13A

I was previously in an Area that elected this position and saw no problems. In this report, there was language about *at the same time*, making themselves available for alternate delegate and delegate unless having already held one of those positions. Please clarify.

Bobby O.

The recommendation stated “unless they have already served that position.” In Georgia, you go from alt delegate, to delegate to chairperson. In other Area manuals reviewed, if you served as alternate delegate, you could not go backwards to be chairperson. Most of those Areas have alt chairperson, chairperson, alt delegate, delegate as a rotation process.

Rebecca T.

In many Areas, you serve as delegate then rotate to the back of the room as support.

Tom R., GSR Abbeville Group

I’m at loss based on what I heard about the delegate rotating into the Chair. My suggestion: once the delegate completes their term, if there is going to be an election for chairperson, let them stand to be elected along with anyone else for chairperson. It would bring continuity.

Inaudible, GSR

We heard a lot about what we gain by switching to electing our chairperson. What would we lose as far as continuity goes if the chairperson was not a past delegate?

Genevieve B., DCM 13E

We spoke to 7 past delegates—4 out of 7 did not support this motion, weighing experience and stability over rotating someone new into the position. Three past delegates could see value in both sides.

Diane M., Communications Chair

When the responsibilities for the chairperson were read, guiding, directing etc., of the delegate was stated. To me it appears it would require that person to be a delegate first. In reviewing, other Areas manuals and corresponding positions, did we also review the responsibilities for these same positions? Example: if a delegate in another Area has responsibilities that we assign to our chairperson.

Bobby O.

We did not review all responsibilities of a chairperson for every Area. Not every Area has its own state manual as Georgia does. Many states use the A.A. Service Manual which recommends the chairperson position be an elected position. It goes on to state when the delegate rotates out, they hope the delegate will come back and share their experience, strength, and hope.

Rebecca T.

Ad hoc committee did not review every manual/policy & procedures of each Area, reviewing their requirements for chairperson. Our delegate polled other Areas inquiring if their chairperson rotated to that position or was elected.

Diane M.

Did the ad hoc committee review other Area Chairpersons' responsibilities?

Rebecca T.

No, they did not.

George S., DCM 13G

The intent of the original motion was to have more opportunity for people to serve at the Area level as opposed to what we have now. I agree with that. As I read the manual, the only qualification to be a delegate is to be a DCM in office the 12 months, proceeding election. Is that correct? We would have many DCMs who qualify that would step up. I don't know if being past delegate needs to be a qualification for chairperson.

Rebecca T.

Read the "Qualifications of the Delegate" from the Georgia A.A. Service Manual on page 18.

John O., Alt GSR Turning Point Group

If this motion is approved, it will significantly change the Georgia A.A. Service Manual. Is there a way to know all the changes to the Manual prior to accepting the motion?

Rick M.

We have a great Communications Committee that handles changes to our Georgia Manual. I hope we think about the principle first and then about the ramifications.

Richard R., Co-chair Treatment/Accessibilities, GSR Hahira Grp

I've been coming to the Assembly since the '70s. I've watched this process work smooth. If it's not broke, why are we trying to fix it?

Tom, GSR Generation X, Kennesaw

Ad hoc committee reported that 96% of the Areas do not rotate as we do. Sounds to me that 96% of the Areas trust their GSRs and respected home groups to elect the person that needs to be in that position. My

experience: it's important to have these positions open so we can have more people get involved in whatever aspect of serviced it is. If we decide to elect this position, we still hear the resumes of those standing. The delegate would still get to stand for chairperson. Trust the people to make the decisions.

Kristen, GSR Moon Road Group, Columbus

Please state the current order of positions thru Area Chair.

Rebecca T.

Alternate delegate elected for 2 years. Delegate is elected for a 2-year position. After delegate, you automatically rotate into the Assembly Chairperson position for 2-years, then automatically rotate into the Office Committee Chair for 2-years. Once elected delegate, you have a 6-year commitment.

Rusty L., Treasurer

When you said 96% elect their chairperson, I took that to mean everyone elected the chairperson as its own position. Later you commented that other Areas just elect their chairs first, then they rotate into other positions. It's misleading that just because they do it a different way, doesn't mean it's not a long rotation. Do you have the numbers that elect a chairperson only as the chair, and do not rotate into any other position? Looking for apples to apples comparison, not just a flipping of how the rotation occurs.

Bobby O.

The percentage we gave is 96% of the Areas polled elect either alternate chair, chair, alternate delegate, or delegate. They have no automatic rotation into another position above.

John R., DCM District 9

96% of the Areas are electing this way. Georgia is still one of the only Areas that has a Prepaid Convention. We love it. We don't follow the same drummer as most other Areas. Why are we trying to follow them now?

Kevin M., Alt GSR, Cartersville Closed Discussion Group

4<sup>th</sup> Tradition: each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole. Why do we care what 96% of the other Areas do? Area 16 is autonomous.

Tom R.

Are there any Areas you saw that changed from the system we currently use to the system being proposed?

Bobby O.

We did not ask the three that have rotation why they did it that way.

**MOTION**—Office Chair become a two-year elected position with same qualifications as Delegate.

The Ad Hoc Committee on the motion was made up of:

Terry P., DCM 5A, served as Chair

Phillip G., DCM 10C

William R., DCM 2A

Mitch M., DCM 7B

The Ad Hoc Committee came to a unanimous decision of not being in favor of motion.

Ad Hoc Committee members were given a packet of responses from Areas across USA & Canada, from the Georgia State Delegate Rick M., to use as a reference on their procedures.

Each committee member talked with past Delegates to get their opinions on this motion.

The Ad Hoc committee had a conference call to discuss this motion and each member's research findings. In a unanimous decision, the committee agreed that the Office Chair position needs to have the experience of having held the State Delegate position. One of the duties of the Office Chair is to encourage, council, and guide the State Delegate while holding that position of service.

Committee discussed a change in procedure could add more expenses to an already stressed state budget.

If passed, this would add more time to an already time-consuming voting process.

The Ad Hoc Committee concluded this position should remain unchanged in the procedure that is now used for position of Office Chair.

On behalf of the committee, we would like to thank our Delegate, Rick M., for appointing us and allowing us to be of service.

### Discussion

Joan M., Chapter 3 Group, 13A

You mentioned there would be a cost. What are you referring to?

Terry P.

The cost we discussed is the cost to change the GA State Manual printing.

Janie C., Lakeland Group

Where in the GA Stat Manual are the duties for the Office Chair outlined?

Ernie M.

It is not in our Manual.

Harold I., past Area Treasurer

Historical background for this position: it was created in the mid '80's with the driving forces being Joe P., past Delegate and Trustee, Frankie F., past Delegate, Keith S., and Glen S., and they had 3 reasons for it. 1) Bringing forward experience—they felt we needed legacy experience to remain on the Office Committee (OC) 2) To have an odd number of people on the OC to have a significant majority 3) Joe P. was standing for Trustee, and they wanted him to have a service position while standing for Trustee. Joe P. was the first Office Chair and was the first person from GA to be elected as Trustee.

Lydia S., DCM 5C

Can we have a reading of the Office Chairperson's duties?

Rebecca T.

Actual duties are not listed in our Manual. Serving in the position, I work with the Office Committee (OC); set up agenda for OC meetings; the point person between Tamera and the OC; work with the hotel on assembly contracts; resource for Chairperson to run this business meeting; pass experience to Delegate; main duties are at the assembly level, but still there to assist groups and committees.

Bobby O., DCM 6

Since there is no information in the Manual for Office Chairperson, read on pg. 32 in the GA Service Manual states (Chairperson) "...If the past Delegate does not choose to assume this office, then the same election procedure shall be followed with the candidates coming from the qualified past Delegates." Only. You can only draw from past Delegates, who then automatically rotates into Office Chair. You lose all eligible persons who can stand for Delegate by automatically rotating into that position.

Amy S., Greenhouse Group, Norcross

Because you have the qualifications to stand for Alternate or Delegate, does not mean you have the experience of the Alternate or Delegate to be the Office Chair.

Amy B., Baldwin County Group

Is there a reason why there isn't a description of the duties of the Office Chair in the Manual currently?

Ernie M.

No there is not.

Jim B., DCM 1B

Is there a description for the duties for the Office Committee? The Office Chair is just a member of that committee.

Rebecca T.

Read pg. 39 in the GA A.A. Service Manual under "GA State Service Assembly Office."

Jim B.

So, that would be the Office Chairs' duties?

Ernie M.

Yes.

Terry P.

One of the deciding factors of not being in favor of this Motion, is as we have just seen, two past Delegates have been giving us this information. We would lose all their experience if they were elected, not rotated.

Karen A., DCM 11B



Considering the description of the qualifications of the Office Chair, it would be an Executive Administration Position in the corporate world. So why do we need it to have the same qualifications as for Delegate? The motion was made in the spirit to allow more people to serve in this position.

Ernie M.

Motion reads "...with the qualifications necessary to be delegate."

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Approve themes** for 2019 Cluster Forums using 2019 General Service Conference Themes:

Our Big Book – 80 Years, 71 Languages

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

Show of hands—all in favor

**Election of Area Secretary and Treasurer,** using the 3<sup>rd</sup> legacy procedures on pgs. 30-31 in the GA Service Manual.

Roll call taken by Secretary, determining 248 eligible voters.

Secretary

Round 1

246 votes cast; need 164 votes for 2/3 majority; on to Round 2

Round 2

243 votes cast; need 162 votes for 2/3 majority; Amy, Mark and Pat drop off

Round 3

238 votes cast; need 159 for 2/3 majority; Tracy M. is elected as Secretary with 190 votes.

### Treasurer

Christy G. is standing for this position unopposed. By a show of hands, all in favor; none opposed.

Christy G. is elected as Treasurer.

### **General Sharing**

Cathy K., Alt. GSR 15A One Day at a Time Group

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. They are a non-profit organization run solely by volunteer AA members, and are supported by donations, there is no charge for the app and no ads.

Carrie M., GSR 15A Sisters in Sobriety

I second the motion

### Discussion

Joan M., 13A Chapter 3 Group

On a regular basis, Area 16 receives a request from Meeting Guide app to participate with them. We decline. The app has a tab "News", under their dropdown, which has two sections. One says "GV and LaVina want to hear from you", which offers a survey; the other section deals with news from GSO. The survey is also on the aagrapevine.org homepage. Towards the end of the survey they ask where you heard of it, with one choice being "Meeting Guide". I spoke with Janet B., GV Office Manager in NY, who said they knew the survey was on the app, and they were working closely with the developers. I asked if she considered this affiliation with an outside enterprise, and her response was she didn't know. I believe this is affiliation. Possibly our Delegate

could reach out to other Areas and get their input about this app. References made to the A.A. Guidelines on the Internet (MG-18).

Rusty L.

Meeting Guide wants to directly link to the backend of our server to download meeting information. The app "Pink Cloud" has all our meeting information, but they do not link directly with GSSA. Their information is not always up to date. My opinion, is that we should not give anyone access to our database which is what Meeting Guide is requesting.

Micah, Co-chair PI/CPC

One of our current efforts in the Communication Committee is to sharpen the development of the "Find a Meeting" tool which already exists thru google maps. It was brought up at our workshop that Meeting Guide was more for travelers, between states. Consider: attention given to another tool would detract from what we are currently working on at GSSA. If people are not hitting the A.A. GA website, they are also not getting access to the additional services we offer at the Area. GSO is potentially developing meeting app.

Cathy K.

I did use this when I was traveling and it was handy. In places not connected to Meeting Guide, you are directed to the local A.A. website. Meeting Guide is all over the world; manned by A.A. volunteers; not for profit.

Tom R., DCM 16D

We are missing the word "control". We have control over what our website looks like. This company can change what they do, whenever they want, including advertisement. We have no control over that.

Inaudible, GSR 13B

I do this for a living for the state of Georgia. We do not let anybody have access to our database. That is not done in a professional situation. I would not think you want to do that with yours either. People could alter your database.

Rick M., Chapter 3 Group, Sandy Springs

I googled "Where can I find a meeting in GA?". We came up #3 in find a meeting in GA. A lot of work is put into our website: find a meeting, books, GSSA etc. I want people to find that. A newcomer looking for a meeting will google it before downloading an app. We should look at not only affiliation, but our own information as well.

Chris, GSR 16B, Sunrise

When traveling out of state I use aa.org, which lists every state, giving me local meeting sites. That's staying within the network of A.A. If someone wants to publish our information, they can get it off the web and publish on a 3<sup>rd</sup> party site.

Sindy T., Fresh Start Group, Douglasville

As a traveler, I appreciate aa.org. Whether I'm in Mexico, Columbia, anywhere, I can find quality information that people have already worked on and provided for me. We don't know what Meeting Guide will end up providing, or even if it will be in Spanish. If you are a newcomer, I think you want to go straight to the horses' mouth.

Daniel L., GSR, A Vision for You

When I first came to A.A. I used an app. Now I know there are A.A. websites. I didn't know that in the beginning. Maybe we need an app.

Miles, Alt GSR, First Things First Group

I make a motion to have an ad hoc committee started for the motion on the floor.

Daniel L.

I second the motion.

Ernie M.

May we have a show of hands to further research the motion.

All in favor; Delegate to appoint a committee for further research.

Inaudible, Alt GSR 5C, Early Bird, Savannah

Motion to close.

Fran L.

2<sup>nd</sup> the motion to close.