

Georgia State Service Assembly
Business Meeting Minutes
Pending Approval at the May, 2018 Business Meeting
Sunday, January 21st, 2018

Business Meeting opened by Ernie M., with the Serenity Prayer recited in Spanish, followed by English

Delegate's Report—Rick M

Rick began his report with a welcome and acknowledgement of all attendees at this first assembly in 2018. He then asked how many were attending their very first assembly and extended a warm welcome to them all. Rick then thanked several individuals for their participation over the weekend and went into a few general comments before giving this detailed report:

A Look Back at the Last Quarter of 2017

A most successful 64th Pre-paid convention was held and you'll hear more this morning from the committee chair as she gives the final report. I don't know about you, but I didn't have to leave this facility for lack of food! DCM Planning meeting was held on Nov. 4th, we welcomed the new committee chairs and co-chairs. You'll meet and hopefully approve them this morning. We also approved our 2018 GSSA budget and learned of the pre-conference meeting committee assignments for the April meeting here in Macon. The following weekend Area 16 co-hosted the 4th Southern States A.A. Service Assembly. There were several Areas interested in learning more about our Cluster Forums as Ernie and I both talked about them in our workshops. Thank you, Rebecca T., Joe W., and Jenine M. for all your efforts to make it a great success. Interesting, the most popular workshops were on the 12 Concepts. I also want to congratulate and thank Cathy B., our Corrections Committee Chair, on attending and being a part of the committee for the 1st annual National Corrections Conference held in St. Louis, Missouri. Maybe Georgia would be interested in hosting this event in 2020?

Manuscript Litigation

On May 19, 2017, we were informed by the General Manager of GSO that the Board asked the New York State Supreme Court to issue a restraining order against an individual preparing to sell at auction, the 1939 Printer's Copy of the manuscript of Alcoholics Anonymous, our Big Book. The restraining order was granted. This has led to wide and varied conversations in our fellowship. At our November DCM Planning meeting, I had mentioned taking time this weekend during our Saturday afternoon workshop to discuss this topic. I wanted Area 16 to be "informed" about this topic in an open, non-judgmental forum. Fortunately, although the case is not completely over, GSO has asked the court for a "Motion to Discontinue" the litigation.

GSO, in court documents, stated “The time and expense of this litigation are a distraction”. Additionally, the affidavit goes on to say, “A.A.’s principles call for pacifism and the avoidance of controversy and conflict where possible, and given that the protracted nature of this dispute has become clear these principles are at play.” These statements appear to sound very much like our Traditions and Concepts at work. The judge in this case has set a February date to hear more.

General Service Board 4th Quarter Meeting highlights – the October 30th, 2017 meeting reported activities of the GSB including A.A. World Services, Inc., A.A. Grapevine, Inc.

- **Technology/Communications/Services**

A progress report on the Google for Nonprofit YouTube channel stated that 3 P.S.A.s have been uploaded in English, French and Spanish. Discussions will continue as to what other materials will be included as the project nears a launch date. This YouTube channel has been launched.

: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2nfvf9DeDA7QYvLeq4pQ-w>

- **Board Approved Recommendations from Publishing:**

1. That the facsimile of the First Edition Big Book, *Pass It On, Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers*, and *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age* be bundled as a special holiday gift set for \$30 per set. The set will be available in English, French and Spanish with the exception of the 75th Commemorative facsimile of the First Edition Big Book which is only available in English.
2. That A.A.W.S. proceed with the audio recording of the Twelve Concepts for World Service in English, French and Spanish to be streamed on the aa.org website.

- **Grapevine**

1. September YTD Sales are ahead of projections. September YTD cash inflows were \$2,314,206 vs projected inflows of \$1,929,606 (\$385K ahead of projections).
2. 2nd AAGV book/eBook (“*Voices of Women in AA*”) is out and doing better than projected
3. Gross profit from the Grapevine Magazine during the first nine months of 2017 was \$1,060,758, which is \$63,370 more than the \$997,388 budgeted and \$23,218 less than the \$1,083,976 for last year.
4. The Grapevine App is at 1938 subscriptions vs. a budget of 270. This app is doing much better than anticipated.

- **Archives**

The Archives renovation of the exhibit area and staff workstations is complete and looks great! The Archives is open for visitors again.

- **Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC)**

1. *Sub-committee on LinkedIn Page*: The chair of the subcommittee gave a progress report on considering LinkedIn as a platform for providing information about A.A. to professionals who come into contact with problem drinkers. The subcommittee will continue their work and present a written report for the January meeting.
2. *Adding text to the Armed Services pamphlets*: The secretary gave a progress report on adding text to pamphlets for professionals about A.A. and the military and informed the committee that Publishing will have drafts available for review at the January 2018 meeting.

- **Treatment and Accessibility**

1. *Alcoholics who are members of the Armed Services*: The committee reviewed the progress report on strategies being explored. The chair appointed a subcommittee consisting of Richard B., chair and Homer M. The subcommittee will research updating committee workbooks, developing service material and additional resources for the professional community, veterans, and active duty A.A. members. The subcommittee will provide a progress report at the January 2018 meeting.
2. *AA for the Alcoholic with Special Needs*: AAWS approved the edit of DVD/CD versions of "AA for the Alcoholic with Special Needs" to conform to the revision of the pamphlet, retitling it "Accessibility for All Alcoholics" (not to exceed \$20,000).
3. *Request to develop pamphlet for Deaf AA members*: Committee reviewed the progress report on sharing from Deaf and Hard of Hearing A.A. members regarding the effectiveness of our literature, service material and other media. The staff secretary will provide a progress report at the January 2018 meeting.

- **Corrections**

1. The First National Corrections Conference was held November 10-12, 2017, in St. Louis, MO. There were 35 States, including Puerto Rico, and 4 Canadian provinces represented. It was a huge success. Over 389 AA members involved in corrections service attended. The 2018 conference will be held next November in Maine.
2. *Letter from Corrections professional*: The committee noted the benefits that a CPC letter from a professional on the A.A. website has had within the professional community, and suggested a few potential professionals in regards to creating a similar service piece with a corrections professional.
3. *Proposal for new pamphlet for long-term inmates*: The committee discussed a proposal for a new pamphlet for long-term incarcerated inmates. The committee agreed to forward to the 2018 Conference Committee on Corrections the proposal to develop a new pamphlet focused on long-term incarcerated alcoholics soon to be released.

- **Finance**

1. *Summary*: Total revenue for the first 9 months was \$13,150,183, compared to total expenses of \$11,847,697, resulting in net profit for 2017 of \$1,302,486. This compares with

a budgeted profit of \$85,993. This increase is due almost entirely to a \$568,405 increase in gross profit from literature and \$593,175 from contributions. When the 2017 profit of \$1,302,486 is compared to 2016 actual profit of \$800,145, the increase is due to the increase in gross profit from literature of \$526,793 and the additional contributions of \$414,100. This combined increase was offset by the \$438,530 increase in expenses.

2. *Seventh Tradition Contributions*: As of September 30th, there was a record \$5.8 million in 7th tradition contributions. GSO gives many thanks to the Fellowship for their contributions. Georgia = \$96,961.47 54.1% of Groups (429 of 793) (up from 2016 – 53.09%)

- **General Service Conference – April 22nd – 28th**. I will be a member of two committees, the *Literature Committee* and, the *Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums*. We will have a Pre-conference meeting April 7th to discuss all committee topics for this year's GSC. I'm excited I have received these assignments!

- **Literature**

1. *Draft Matrix of Recovery Literature*: The committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2018 Conference Committee on Literature a finalized version of the draft matrix of recovery literature. The committee requested that the staff secretary draft a cover memo for the matrix and bring it to the January 2018 meeting for review.
2. *Request for atheist/agnostic pamphlet*: The committee reviewed and agreed to forward (with additional background) to the 2018 Conference Committee on Literature a request for the development of a pamphlet for atheist/agnostic members.
3. *Request for publication of "The God Word"*: The committee discussed and agreed to forward to the 2018 Conference Committee on Literature a request that A.A. (U.S./Canada) publish the "The God Word" (a pamphlet currently published by A.A. United Kingdom).
4. *Request for revision to the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous*: The committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2018 Conference Committee on Literature a request to add the A.A. Preamble and Responsibility Statement to the Big Book.
5. *Request for pamphlet on A.A.'s Three Legacies*: The committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2018 Conference Committee on Literature a request for a new pamphlet based upon A.A.'s Three Legacies.
6. *Subcommittee on the inclusion of safety language in recovery literature*: The committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2018 Conference Committee on Literature the report and suggestions on the inclusion of safety language in recovery literature.

- **Nominating**

1. *Proposal to reorganize the A.A.W.S and General Service Boards* - The committee discussed and agreed to forward to the 2018 Conference Committee on Trustees a proposal from an area regarding a reorganization of the A.A.W.S and General Service Boards with historical

background material.

2. *Proposal to censure General Service Boards* - The committee discussed and agreed to forward to the 2018 Conference Committee on Trustees a proposal from an area to censure General Service Boards with historical background material.

- **Public Information**

1. *Understanding Anonymity*: The committee heard a progress report on the update to the pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity," including language related to safety, and tabled further discussion to their January 27, 2018 meeting.
2. *A Brief Guide to A.A.*: The committee reviewed draft language to update the pamphlet "A Brief Guide to A.A.," including language related to safety, and after suggesting edits to the draft language and requesting a legal review of the added language on safety, tabled further discussion to their January meeting.
3. *Google AdWords and Google Grants*: The committee reviewed a report from Allison Callis and Shari Miller, regarding how Google AdWords and Grants can be used to carry the A.A. message. After reviewing the "strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats" (SWOT) identified in the report, tabled discussion to a conference call prior to their January meeting.

Challenge: Balancing our Triangle

Rick expressed his hope the action of "Balancing our Triangle" would be one of the many messages carried back and acted upon in our home groups this year. That all of us, through our "examples, enthusiasm, and experience", demonstrate to fellow home group members the true joy and growth opportunities with a balanced triangle of Recovery, Unity, and Service.

Rick read highlights of Area 16 to be submitted and read at the General Service Conference in April.

Recognition of Past Area Officers—Ernie M

Glenda, Past Secretary, Past Office Manager; Harold I., Past Treasurer; Patty L., Past Secretary, Past Delegate; Tom H., Past Secretary, Past Delegate; David M., Past Treasurer, Past Delegate

Approval of Minutes from September 2017 Business Meeting—Ernie M

One amendment noted to correct the name of the person seconding the motion to close.

Show of hands

All in favor

64th GA Prepaid Convention Final Report (Macon)—Tracy M., Convention Chair

Date—October 12-15, 2017

Theme—Preserving Our Future with Unity, Service and Recovery

64th Georgia State Prepaid Convention Final Report

I'd like to begin by thanking everyone for giving me the opportunity to serve as Chair of the Georgia 64th Prepaid Convention. This has been an experience that has shown me again that we serve an awesome God that works through his kids! From the very beginning when our bid was accepted at assembly the right people have stepped up and done their part. Big Mike Co-Chaired and was our voice throughout the weekend. He was a rock and reminded me often, Tracy God's got this!

Our State Office Committee and especially Rick, Rusty, and Tamera have given me their time and guidance throughout the last three years. The 64th Prepaid Convention Committee and over 162 volunteers that came together and went above and beyond with their time and hard work making badges, greeting, and being of service in so many ways.

The 64th Georgia State Prepaid Convention was hosted by districts 7A and 7B and was held October 12th thru 15th here at The Macon Centreplex. The Marriott, our host hotel, provided us with great service and facilities throughout the Convention. I want to give a special thanks to Tom H. and Tamera for all the help they provided our facilities chair in negotiating our contract with the hotel.

Attendance at the Convention was 1,464! The cost of the Convention was \$37,556, coming in at \$4444 under budget. We as a committee decided early on to include and accommodate all our service committees at the Convention. We also were committed to having all 4 days Thursday thru Sunday. Our goal was to have a great convention. That we were able to come in under budget was an added blessing! There were 6 AA Speakers and 1 AI-Anon Speaker. There were two workshops, early bird AA meetings, and an AI-Anon meeting. Each speaker gave heartfelt experience and shared inspiring recovery.

Our districts were able to have the hospitality room that we believe was over the top! There was an ongoing supply and variety of hot food, deserts, snacks, water, and soft drinks as well. Home groups from 7A and 7B prepared, brought in, and served meals in shifts throughout the Convention. Coffee was available at all times during the weekend.

The Saturday Kayak Expedition Float made 2 trips and was a great success! Everyone received a ribbon at the end of their float. 48 people participated. There was a golf tournament Saturday morning with trophies for the winners. We were able to provide local musicians in our hospitality room that volunteered to perform. Friday night there was Karaoke. Big Mike did his famous sobriety countdown before our Saturday night speaker. Saturday night we had a great live band and dance.

The theme was "Preserving our Future" with Unity, Service, and Recovery. I saw and felt Alcoholics Anonymous alive and well in full rooms and full hearts. How blessed we are to live this way of life and celebrate it with each other!

I'm looking forward to Athens this year!

Thank you for allowing me to serve,

Tracy M., 64th Prepaid Chair

Southern States Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (SSAASA) Final Report—Rebecca T

Thanks for the support and privilege to host SSAASA. There were representatives from all over the Southeast, Ohio, and one person from Canada who stopped on their way to Florida.

This was a weekend filled with workshops and panels where attendees could exchange ideas.

The Concepts workshops were surprisingly the most well attended, with standing room only.

There were 260 people in attendance. Thanks to all for helping us meet our room block at the host hotel, keeping other hotel expenses low.

I am grateful to have co-hosted this event with Alabama.

65th GA Prepaid Convention Report (Athens)—Jim T., Convention Chair

Theme: A.A. – A Solution for All Generations

Dates: Friday, Oct. 26th – Sunday, Oct. 28th, 2018

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

- State of the art facility, newly renovated, seating for 1600 (Grand Hall 1-7) On-site Hospitality Suite.

Host Hotels:

- Hilton Garden Inn: directly across from Classic Center; \$139/night; 140 Rooms reserved
- 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

There are blocks of rooms reserved for us with no pressure to fill them. That being said, on October 5th, room rates will go back to their normal rates. The rates they are giving us are very good. There will be NO cost to GSSA if you book your rooms after the cutoff date. However, the cost to YOU will increase if you book after the cutoff date.

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

Activities:

Golf Tournament (Jennings Mill CC), Motorcycle Poker Run, Fun Run/Walk, Yoga, Georgia-Florida Game Viewing and Meal. (There will be a room set up with seating for

about 200. The game will be projected on a screen and the Classic Center will provide a meat and three vegetable meal which you can pay for when you go thru the line.) AA and Al-Anon Workshops, Open Meetings. Halloween Dance on Saturday Night. Double A Café (Open Mic).

Hospitality:

We will have a hospitality suite at the Classic Center. Our goal is to rival Macon, feeding you the best we can. Coffee set up will be at multiple stations served by the Classic Center.

*Current Number of Registrations: 262 registrations as of this morning.

*Please register online at aageorgia.org or at our Registration Table!

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your 65th Prepaid Chairperson.

AREA OFFICERS REPORTS

Alternate Delegate—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

Cluster Forums 2018

Southwest

Districts 1A,**1B**, 2A,2B

Sat. March 24

Albany (flyer in Message)

West Central

Districts 6,7A,7B,**10A**,10C, 10D, 11C

June

Flyer Due April 1

Northeast

Districts 11A,11B,16A, 16B,16C,
16D, 16E, **16F**

July/August

Flyer Due June 1

Metro Atlanta

13A,13B,13D,13E, 13F,**13G**,13H,
13I,13J, 13K

November

Flyer Due Aug. 1

Tracy has given her final report on the **64th GEORGIA STATE PREPAID CONVENTION** held October 12-15th, 2017 in MACON at the Macon Marriott City Center. The theme was: "PRESERVING OUR FUTURE" WITH UNITY, SERVICE, RECOVERY AND THE "STEPS – TRADITIONS – PROGRAM – FELLOWSHIP". The Committee did an excellent job in choosing great speakers and activities (kayaking and golf). The hospitality room was amazing. I want to thank the Committee again for a great job!

Out next Prepaid Convention is Oct. 26th -28th at the Classic Center in Athens. Jim T. has given his report and updates on the 65th Prepaid. We toured the facility in Mid-December. The renovations completed at the Classic Center are beautiful and it will be the perfect setting for our Prepaid. Registration is available at the tables out in the lobby or online. Register early!!.

Area 16 Functions (through May 2018)

Corrections Certification Training-Macon GSSA Office-Sat. Jan 27 -8:00 AM -12:00PM

SE Delegates Get-Together-Westin Perimeter- Feb. 2– 4

Southwest Cluster Forum - Liberty Baptist Church, Albany-March 24 -8:30 Registration

DCM Pre-Conference Meeting -Macon Marriott-April 7-11:00Am- 3:00 PM

68th General Service Conference- New York-April 22-28

Georgia AA Service Assembly- Macon Marriott- May 18-20

Please see our Area 16 and Statewide Functions in 2018 list for a complete listing of events in our area.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Secretary—Joan M

Attendance at January 2018 Assembly

DCMs	43
Alternate DCMs	29
District Secretary/Treasurers	10
GSRs	242
Alternate GSRs	68
Group Secretary/Treasurers	38
Grapevine Reps	12
Treatment Reps	4
Corrections Reps	13
Communications Reps	4
PI/CPC Reps	11
Archives Reps	7
Members-at-large	32
TOTAL	513

We have updated GSSA Service Manuals and 2018 GSSA Directories available today. Please take the time to check that the information listed in the Directory is correct. You can see me after the meeting to fill out a form to change your information, or you can go online to change that information. Both the Service Manual and Directory are available online. Tamera updates the Directory online once a month.

Group information can be updated online by using one of the following forms: New Group Registration Form, Existing Group Meeting Change Form, or the Existing Group Trusted Servants Update Form. You can find these online at aageorgia.org, on the homepage under the “Find a Meeting” tab.

Please send your District/Zone Minutes to districtminutes@aageorgia.org. On our website, click on the “Service” tab, Area 16 Office Committee, then Secretary. The link will be on the left- hand side.

DCMs: GSSA’s preferred form of communication with you is via email. Each of you have a district email box accessible at district @aageorgia.org. Please check regularly as information is sent to you which we then ask you to pass on to your district.

Thank you for your participation.

Treasurer Report—Rusty L



INCOME

	2018 Budget	2017 Actual	2017 Budget	2017 Difference
Ordinary Income	\$169,237.50	\$157,184.48	\$170,285.64	(\$13,101.16)
Literature Income and Interest	\$104,600.00	\$93,037.90	\$92,500.08	\$537.82
Total Income	\$273,837.50	\$250,222.38	\$262,785.72	(\$12,563.34)

In 2017 we started off good, but things took a turn towards the end of the year. Overall we ended up with a net income, but much of that is based on savings not contributions.



EXPENSES

	2018 Budget	2017 Actual	2017 Budget	2017 Difference
COMMITTEES	\$35,906.66	\$28,518.99	\$39,006.78	(\$10,487.79)
ASSEMBLY	\$40,307.40	\$39,603.26	\$40,157.43	(\$554.17)
OPERATIONS	\$103,891.52	\$101,741.55	\$100,993.09	\$748.46
LITERATURE	\$93,287.50	\$73,853.65	\$82,500.00	(\$8,646.35)
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$273,393.08	\$243,717.45	\$262,657.30	(\$18,939.85)



**EXPENSES
BY COMMITTEE**

	2018 Budget	2017 Actual	2017 Budget	2017 Difference
OFFICE COMMITTEE	\$8,380.00	\$5,616.91	\$9,810.01	(\$4,193.10)
PI/CPC	\$1,790.00	\$1,143.50	\$2,200.08	(\$1,056.58)
COMMUNICATIONS	\$9,043.33	\$3,772.74	\$9,458.26	(\$5,685.52)
TREATMENT	\$2,040.00	\$2,004.45	\$2,300.04	(\$295.59)
CORRECTIONS	\$3,540.00	\$2,433.26	\$3,900.00	(\$1,466.74)
ARCHIVES	\$5,323.33	\$5,168.68	\$5,588.31	(\$419.63)
GRAPEVINE	\$1,690.00	\$1,273.51	\$1,850.04	(\$576.53)
MISCELLANEOUS	\$4,100.00	\$7,105.94	\$3,900.04	\$3,205.90

The Miscellaneous budget is \$3200 over budget due to an additional \$4000 sent to GSO to cover our Delegates' actual Conference expenses. Initially we sent \$1700 to cover the bill sent us by GSO. At the end of each year we evaluate our finances, and if available, we send additional money to cover our actual expenses. In November, the DCMs voted to send the additional \$4000. This extra money is not budgeted for. When we do send it, it shows up on the Miscellaneous line.

Most "Actual" expenses are under the budgeted amount due to us moving Prepaid expenses from the GSSA Budget to the Prepaid Budget in September.



TOTALS

	2018 Budget	2017 Actual	2017 Budget	2017 Difference
TOTAL INCOME	\$273,837.50	\$250,222.38	\$262,785.72	(\$12,563.34)
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$273,393.08	\$243,717.45	\$262,657.30	(\$18,939.85)
DIFFERENCE	\$444.42	\$6,504.93	\$128.42	\$6,376.51

Due to us controlling operations and literature expenses, we remained in the black for 2017. Congratulations!



GSSA RESERVE FUND

Current Reserve Fund Balance (as of 12/31/2017)	\$152,917.44
Operating Expenses (as of 12/31/2017)	\$169,863.80
Months of Operating Expense (as of 12/31/2017)	10.8



PREPAID CONVENTION

	3-year Rolling Average	2017 Budget	2017 Actual	2017 Difference
64th-Macon	\$41,010.00	\$40,549.24	\$37,167.07	(\$3,382.17)

2017 Total Contributions **\$34,417.04**

Reserve Fund Balance **\$112,988.07**
 (as of 12/31/2017)

Number of Conventions per Reserve **2.86**
 (based on a 3-year rolling average)



**Comparison of Group Contributions
2017-2016**

	GSSA			PrePaid		
	2017	2016	Difference	2017	2016	Difference
January	\$17,451.68	\$14,362.47	\$3,089.21	\$4,996.87	\$3,790.56	\$1,206.31
February	\$12,243.70	\$12,698.91	(\$455.21)	\$2,001.70	\$2,653.22	(\$651.52)
March	\$9,424.65	\$11,731.15	(\$2,306.50)	\$3,641.45	\$2,497.19	\$1,144.26
April	\$14,524.63	\$16,580.64	(\$2,056.01)	\$1,795.20	\$4,597.17	(\$2,801.97)
May	\$11,127.08	\$11,157.74	(\$30.66)	\$3,064.56	\$2,734.88	\$329.68
June	\$8,026.39	\$9,183.50	(\$1,157.11)	\$1,926.07	\$2,603.30	(\$677.23)
July	\$18,468.17	\$16,963.07	\$1,505.10	\$3,640.19	\$3,653.26	(\$13.07)
August	\$10,292.71	\$8,926.70	\$1,366.01	\$3,228.15	\$1,911.17	\$1,316.98
September	\$5,735.44	\$11,779.76	(\$6,044.32)	\$1,362.80	\$3,733.06	(\$2,370.26)
October	\$17,220.90	\$13,383.08	\$3,837.82	\$3,454.53	\$1,513.57	\$1,940.96
November	\$8,233.93	\$10,253.91	(\$2,019.68)	\$1,773.75	\$2,187.12	(\$413.37)
December	\$9,236.58	\$12,338.94	(\$3,102.36)	\$3,531.77	\$2,915.68	\$616.09
Actual	\$141,985.86	\$149,359.57	(\$7373.71)	\$34,417.04	\$35,011.62	(\$594.58)
Budgeted	\$155,562.24					
Difference	(\$13,576.38)					

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Eight months in 2017 had lower contributions than in 2016. While we had projected a 3.25% increase in contributions for 2017, actual group contributions were about \$7400, or 5% below contributions in 2016. Prepaid contributions were level. When you go back to your home groups, please consider GSSA in supporting the services your DCMs voted to budget for this year.

Contributions to GSO from Area 16 came from 54% of our groups. Contributions to GSSA came from 53% of our groups.

OLD BUSINESS

Ad hoc report on Roll Calls—Chuck H., Chair

MOTION:

“I move that we take a roll-call of eligible voters at the beginning of every business meeting”

The Ad Hoc Committee on the Motion was made up of Beth B. (DCM for Zone 2 B), Chuck H. (DCM for 13 B) who served as Chair, Frank M. (DCM for 5 A), and George S. (DCM for 13 G). On behalf of the committee, we would like to thank our Delegate, Rick M., for appointing us, and thank you for allowing us to be of service.

The Ad Hoc Committee was in favor of the motion.

Our committee met several times over the past months, by conference call and in person, to discuss the motion.

The motion was made following a perceived discrepancy in the number of people voting on a previous motion. Even though these discrepancies were resolved, when the vote was held for Delegate and it started with a roll-call of the D.C.M.s to announce how many eligible voters were present, it was apparently felt that this would be a good way to begin every business meeting.

The committee went through the Georgia AA Service Manual to review the current voting procedures.

On page 14, we discussed that the “Seating of the Assembly Business Meeting” requires visitors to sit to the rear of the D.C.M.s and G.S.R.s to assist the rostrum in identifying the voting members. This seems to be something that is not currently followed, and might address some of the concerns this motion addresses. Changes in the seating arrangements are left “to the discretion of the Office Committee”.

On page 15, the manual makes it clear that the goal is “One Group – One Vote”. The procedures for voting privileges allow only G.S.R.s or their duly elected and registered alternates to vote at Assembly meetings.

We noted that on page 29, where it details the “Election Procedure and Voting”, there is a provision for a roll-call of the D.C.M.s to stand for nomination for Delegate and Alternate Delegate, but there is no requirement for a roll-call of eligible voters prior to voting. This roll-call is also not included in the “Third Legacy Procedure” on the following pages. The decision to do the roll-call of eligible voters prior to the election of the Delegate seemed to be that of the Chairperson.

After much discussion, we decided that this motion is more appropriate as a change to our Georgia AA Service Manual, rather than just a suggested change in policy.

We considered how this change might affect the still suffering alcoholic. Our Area Assembly is a business meeting, and while folks might like to sit with other folks they know, it is important that we conduct AA’s business in an orderly way. There really is something “spiritual” about seeing this many drunks in a room making a decision.

We are all in favor of the motion. We suggest adding the wording, “There will be a roll-call of eligible voters at the beginning of every business meeting.” We recommend that this be placed at the end of the section on “Seating Of The Assembly Business Meeting” (on page 14) since this is where the Georgia AA Service Manual discusses identifying the voting members.

Thank you again for allowing us to be of service.

Discussion regarding this motion:

Tom R., DCM 16D—If we do this at the start of a meeting, and I have a GSR in my zone who registered on Saturday, and is eligible to vote, but comes in this business meeting 20 minutes after I have given you a figure. Do we have to do this process all over again because that number is no longer correct?

Chuck H., Ad hoc Chair—No. We would just do the roll call of eligible voters at the beginning of the meeting. The number of people in the room who are eligible to vote may go up or down based on people going to the restroom, smoking, etc. That’s not what this is about. It’s trying to get an idea of how many people are here and identifying the people who are eligible to vote.

Tom R.—My understanding from the committee, and when this was raised, was that that happened because we wanted to know if the percentage was correct in terms of whether or not the vote passed. If your number changes, your percentage is inaccurate anyway.

Ernie M., Chairperson—I believe a lot of that came about because when it was being looked at, we used registered GSRs, registered alternate GSRs, and we did not know what number of those alternate GSRs were filling in for GSRs. In this motion, and what you’re asking, gives the DCM in that roll call the total number of eligible votes that DCM will report. If he has an alternate and a GSR from the same group, he’s only counting one vote from that group. That will give this body a more accurate figure than what we currently have.

Aaron W., Alternate DCM, 13J—I tried to check my zone’s folder today at 8:59 to verify registered GSRs and alternates, but was denied access to it. It would have been helpful for me to verify those registered.

Ernie M—We will try to make sure that information is available to you.

Amy S., GSR Greenhouse Group, Norcross—Clarification. What we are talking about has nothing to do with the roll call. It is not about the bodies in the room. It is only about the registered eligible votes per district that the DCM is going to give in the roll call.

Ernie M—Correct.

No further discussion.

Motion tabled to be voted on at Assembly in May.

Review of Assembly Procedures

Approval of New Area Committee Chairs/Co-Chairs

Grapevine—Robert M., Chair, Susan D., Co-chair

PI/CPC—Maxwell S., Chair, Micah G., Co-chair

Archives—Fred I., Chair, Mike S., Co-chair
Communications—Diane M., Chair, Chuck H., Co-chair
Co-editor—Tom R.

Show of hands
All in favor

Bids for the 2020 Prepaid Convention

Requirements for bidding for a Prepaid Convention read by Area Secretary.

Gary H., DCM District 10D, accompanied by other District 10 DCMs:

We would like to put in a bid for the 67th Prepaid Convention to be held at Callaway Resort and Gardens, October 16-20, 2020.

There are 500 rooms available at the Mountain Creek Inn with rates starting at \$125/night, the Lodge and Spa with rates from \$189/night, and the Cottages with rates from \$330/night.

Eight restaurants are on the property with meals ranging from \$12 and up, plus many restaurants in nearby Pine Mountain.

The Mountain Creek Inn Complex has a 17,000-foot area to hold our meetings with breakout rooms available.

Callaway offers plenty of outside activities including hiking, golf, boating, fishing, and a new treetop zip line experience. There will also be complimentary passes to the Gardens for overnight guests.

If you attended the 2012 or the 59th Prepaid, you know how great the facilities are. Plus, many have been remodeled.

At our May Assembly, the GSRs will be asked to accept or reject this bid.

General Sharing

Armando C., DCM District 17—I would like to invite everyone to the 20th Anniversary of the Linguistic District #17. It will be held April 1, 2018 at 3330 Chestnut Drive, Doraville, GA 30340. The celebration begins at 2pm. As always, meals and music will be provided.

Aaron W., Alternate DCM 13J—Concerning contributions. Instead of focusing on groups fighting over 5% here or there, our zone focuses on the groups that are not participating. That has increased participation as well as contributions in our zone. You can see this in our financial reports. I challenge DCMs, alternate DCMs and GSRs to reach out to dark groups and expand the very core, the base of our contributions.

Ernie M., Chairperson—DCMs can review the financial report to determine which groups are contributing to GSSA and the Prepaid.

Tom R., DCM 16D—Clarification. When the manual calls for 2/3 acceptance on a vote, is that 2/3 of the vote, or 2/3 of the eligible voters?

Ernie M—It is 2/3 of the total number of people that cast the vote.

Tom R—If you know how many people are eligible to vote but they don't all vote, what does that do to your percentage? You need to know how many people cast a vote.

Ernie M—The motion is asking is how many eligible votes are in the room. If we have 300 hundred people in the room and there are 300 votes, with 200 in favor, that is the 2/3 majority. If we have 300 people in the room eligible to vote, and only 275 vote, then our 2/3 percentage will be on the 275, not the 300.

John R., DCM District 9—Some of our GSRs are interested in going back to 8 cluster forums per year. A budget matter came up yesterday regarding emergency funds to spend. We are below our normal contributions currently. If we want to incur more expenses, we need to increase our contributions to GSSA. If we want to spend money, we need to have money to spend.

Chris N., GSR 16B—Motion to close.

Ernie M—Others at the microphone will have the chance to speak prior to considering motion to close.

Frank S., GSR White Bluff Group, Savannah—Re: Group contributions and participation. We used to encourage groups here to participate in "June Appreciation Month", with special contributions going to GSO, and in "November Gratitude Month", where we encouraged a special contribution to the State Office. My home group still does that and maybe others would like to consider doing this.

Carlton, GSR Sunset Group, 13J, Smyrna—Second the motion to adjourn.

Ernie M—There is one more person to share before considering the motion to adjourn.

Phil G., DCM 10C—Is there a protocol for abstentions in voting?

Ernie M—No. It is just a vote not counted.

Phil G—Comment: I think it's the DCMs responsibility to counsel and help all the GSRs. This morning I contacted all my GSRs that I knew were going to be present here, informing them to be in their seats, registered and ready to go at 9AM. It's the DCM's responsibility to herd GSRs and counsel them and guide them. That is our service—to guide the GSRs.

Ernie M—Accept motion and second to adjourn.

All in favor of adjourning.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.