#### DELEGATE / delegate@aageorgia.org

#### **Spirit of Participation** By Tracy M. **Area 16 Delegate**

It's hard to believe that 2022 has come and gone. The Spirit of Rotation ensures that about the time we get our feet under us, we pass it on to the next trusted servant. I am so grateful for all our newly elected trusted servants. I look forward to the year ahead.

We have had a year of adjusting back into face-to-face Assemblies, cluster forums, and workshops. We had our 69th Georgia Prepaid Convention with the opportunity to fellowship together. The Spirit that is in the room when we are together is powerful. Every suffering alcoholic who makes it to the rooms of AA has a chance to be a part of that palpable energy! We are blessed with the privilege of our service committees being able to set up tables for people to come and ask questions. Our literature sales at our Assemblies not only help financially, but they too, provide an opportunity for the alcoholic to ask questions about what they might benefit from most. I would love for all to attend our Assembly.

When GSO was able to safely travel again, our General Service staff and trustees began, and have continued, to be our guest at Assemblies all over the United States and Canada. They felt that it was important to be with our Fellowship. We also held our 72nd General Service Conference in person last April. We all know that most business can be conducted virtually. There are proposed agenda items concerning the possibility of having part of the General Service Conference done virtually. Our General

Service Office has continued to look at different ways to address how to move forward.

Confidential for members January/February 2023 Volume 59, Numbers 1-2

Our Area has made progress. There is still a lot to work out. We have many guidelines already in place that would need to be changed. I trust that we will move forward to accommodate the virtual into our service structure more as these studies and working groups continue to report back to us. We have to consider that in order for online groups to have a voice in Area 16 there GSR would have to attend Assembly in person. Area 16 has voted to not pass electronic voting the last two times the motion has been made.

This is only one of the obstacles between us and a full hybrid option.

I would like for us to practice our Fourth Concept: At all responsible

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#### ALTERNATE DELEGATE / alt delegate@aageorgia.org

#### Hello 2023! By Tom B. **Area 16 Alternate Delegate**

Happy New Year and welcome to 2023 in Area 16. We have another year of fulfilling our primary purpose, carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic. Alcoholics Anonymous in Area 16 holds many different events throughout the year to help carry the message of AA. There are service Assemblies, cluster forums, workshops, conventions, Roundups, and virtual presentations.

Here are some highlights of upcoming events. Many of them have not confirmed their dates yet, and there will be additional ones popping up later in the year. The Georgia State Service Assembly office in Macon and the Alternate Delegate maintain an ongoing Area 16 Functions List for the year. This list contains any upcoming AA event in the state of Georgia as well as some around the U.S. and Canada. You can email

either gssa@aageorgia.org or altdele-

gate@aageorgia.org and request the current list. As we get dates and locations confirmed, the functions list is updated.

Area 16 holds a service Assembly weekend in Dublin, Georgia, during the months of January, May, and September. There are workshops focused on committees and trusted servant on Saturday, a speaker meeting Saturday night, and the business meeting on Sunday morning. It is during the business meeting when GSRs vote on motions affecting AA in Area 16 and elections of our area trusted servants.

There are four cluster forums scheduled during the year: Southeast Cluster Forum (March 25, St. Simons), East Central Cluster Forum (June), Northwest Cluster Forum (August), and District 17 Cluster Forum (November, Atlanta). Each cluster forum focuses and presents on the theme for that year. The theme for 2023 voted on by the GSRs is "AA.'s Three Legacies - Our Common Solution". Other presentations include reports from some of the Area officers and each area committee chairperson.

There are several conventions planned: 70<sup>th</sup> Prepaid Convention (October 20-22, Augusta) and the 45<sup>th</sup> Al-Anon/Alateen Convention (August 4-6, Helen). Several roundups are available to attend: 26th Flint River Roundup (March 10-12, Albany), 29th Marietta Spring Roundup (May, Marietta), 46<sup>th</sup> Atlanta Roundup (Atlanta area), and the 44th Allatoona Roundup (August 18-20, Cartersville).

Look out for many virtual presentations organized by some of our area committees as well as workshops put on by Districts: District 16D Sponsorship workshop (March 11, Lawrenceville) and District 15B Traditions workshop (April 8,

#### Continued on Page 5

#### TREASURER / treasurer@aageorgia.org

#### Growing Together By Todd B. Area 16 Treasurer

I am excited about being involved in the Area 16 service structure and looking forward to growing with you all over the next two years.

I must admit I have a couple of degrees in English Literature, so my financial reports may look a little different. One of the things that I want to focus on is communication. I am new to this role and don't want to assume anything, so I am asking all Georgia AA's, "What are our guiding AA principles for handling money?"

I am reading a lot of pamphlets and literature and want to ask you all this question as a dialogue to go forward. I hope you will discuss with your home group, GSR's, and DCM's before our next Assembly in January. I will ask the DCM's at our meeting at the Assembly to provide feedback on our financial principles because I want to learn more.

I believe if our values are right and we follow our values, then we will be good to go no matter what happens in the economy. Tamera and I agreed that to better communicate, we would provide the group contribution report to the entire Assembly. We hope this information is beneficial and can assist in reaching out to groups that are not participating and thank the groups that are participating. Keep up the good work.

I live in a wonderful world today and that is a direct result of my Higher Power working in my life and my participation in Alcoholics Anonymous. I hope we can reach out our hands to all AA's and encourage participation at all levels.

I want to welcome everyone to our Area 16 service structure and be a light of the principle of inclusion.

This is a blast. Don't sweat the small stuff, and it's all small stuff. See you on the Road of Happy Destiny.

## SELF-SUPPORT GROUP CONTRIBUTION PLANS TO AA SERVICE ENTITIES

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

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

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

#### **Group Conscience Decision:**

	State Office, Macon:		%
	District/Zone:		%
	Central Office:		%
	Pre-Paid Convention:		%
	GSO:		%
	Total:		<u>100</u> %
ı	Sample Distribution		_
	Sample Distribution	A	В
	State Office, Macon:		_
			_
	State Office, Macon:	50% -	30%
	State Office, Macon: Central Office:	50% - 10%	30% 35% 5%
	State Office, Macon: Central Office: District/Zone:	50% - 10% 10%	30% 35% 5%

#### Mailing Addresses:

## GSSA (State Office) & Prepaid Convention P.O. Box 7325

Macon, GA 31209

#### **GSO (General Service Office)**

P.O. Box 2407 James A. Farley Station New York, NY 10116-2407

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

#### SECRETARY / secretary@aageorgia.org

## What Does a Secretary Do? By Bobby O. Area 16 Secretary

It is exciting to start this year as your new Area 16 Secretary. On page 27 of the AA Service Manual, one of the duties of Secretary is to act as a liaison between officers and committee members. Well, if you know me then you know I've got the acting part down, so it is time to work on my liaising skills.

As we all know, service work is a part of our symbolic triangle. It also has been a rewarding part of my recovery. Over the years, I've done everything from bringing the coffee pot and making coffee to obtaining supplies to chairing meetings and events. The latter of these service responsibilities has had me traverse the state from Columbus to Macon to Albany and, most recently, Savannah. It has been quite an amazing journey! So, if you are new to service or moving from one position to another, I want to welcome you to our wonderful service structure. I hope in your journey that you will find the fellowship and friendship I have cherished over the years.

Now, let's get down to brass tacks.

What is a secretary supposed to do, either at the group, District or even Area level? Hopefully, we will see you at the January 2023 Assembly where you will have the opportunity to attend meetings that answer these and many other questions related to service positions. In the meantime, you are welcome to view a PowerPoint located on the GSSA website under the service drop down menu and entitled "Treasurer and Secretary". After viewing, if you have additional questions, feel free to email me at secretary@aageorgia.org. I will do my very best to reply as quickly as possible and/ or direct you appropriately for thorough answers.

I look forward to enhancing existing relationships and building new friendships as part of my new role. Please always remember to update your group information on the website and *always* e-mail your District minutes to <u>district-minutes@aageorgia.org</u> so that we may keep an accurate list and history of our Area, District, and group consciences.

I humbly thank you for this opportunity to serve as your Area 16 Secretary. May we enter 2023 with an open mind to others' opinions and thoughts and a willingness to serve them all.

#### GRAPEVINE La Viña / grapevine@aageorgia.org

# Grapevine Audio Project By Mitch M., Chair Haley W., Co-Chair Area 16 Grapevine / La Viña Committee

I would like to welcome Haley W. to the Grapevine Committee. You may have known Haley as Haley B. She recently got married, so congratulate her the next time you see her!

#### Be a Part of Grapevine's Audio Project

AA Grapevine is collecting stories that are up to seven minutes long from the Fellowship in the form of audio recordings. Share as you would in a meeting — or pick a topic of your own choosing, from making amends to working on a particular Step. If your audio story is accepted by the AA Grapevine editorial staff, Grapevine will publish it in the form of a YouTube playlist or on another media platform.

**Notes:** Grapevine does not collect recordings from speakers at AA meetings.

Audio stories should be roughly seven minutes in length.

Two Ways to Share Your Audio Story

- 1) The Audio Project Voicemail System
- Call the voicemail system at 559-726-1216.
- Press 1 to hear helpful tips and to begin recording your story after the tone
- When you're finished recording, Press #, then you will be prompted to Press 1 to save your story.
- After that, press 2 to give AA Grapevine permission to use your story.

#### 2-) Do It Yourself

- Use your own digital recorder, smartphone, or other mobile devices.
   (WAV and MP3 files will be accepted.)
- Send your recording to the email address webcoord@aagrapevine.org

#### Listen to Stories by Members

If you want to share your experience, strength and hope with AA Grapevine, but are unsure of what to share, listen to these audiotapes made by other AA members. You can find them at AA Grapevine's designated YouTube channel.

#### COMMUNICATIONS / communications@aageorgia.org

# Concept 4: The Principle of Participation By Janie C., Chair Jaki T., Co-chair Area 16 Communications Committee

As a newly sober AA member, I would often hear talk of the Twelve Traditions and, less frequently, the Twelve Concepts for World Service. I distinctly remember wondering how any of that applied to my own life, but I could see how they *might* be useful to the Fellowship. Then I entered what would become my service journey in Alcoholics Anonymous as a GSR and began to see things very differently.

Our Communications Committee relies heavily on the Traditions and Concepts to guide our actions and conversations regarding service to Area 16. As we as a committee and a body continue to explore how we might better hear the voices *all* of our 761 groups in Area 16 represented at our Assembly, Concept 4 comes to mind:

"Throughout our Conference structure, we ought to maintain at all responsible levels a traditional "Right of Participation," taking care that each classification or group of our world servants shall be allowed a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge."

In light of the concept above, we will therefore be asking you, the body, at our Assembly in January to weigh in on the idea of offering "hybrid" access to our in person Area Assembly business meeting (and perhaps others) to allow those unable to travel or groups who cannot afford to send their GSR a full representation in the life of Area 16. More details will certainly follow, but we look forward to talking about this with you all in January at our Assembly workshops and business meetings.

May this new year be one of wonderful growth for Area 16, and for us all. Treatment /Accessibilities treatment@aageorgia.org

# Bridging the Gap By Don K., Chair Claire P., Co-Chair Area 16 Treatment / Accessibilities Committee

One of the best ways we can help newly recovering alcoholics transition from treatment to home is through the Bridge the Gap program. We want to help those who wish to get to attend a meeting upon their release but may not be familiar with local AA. The Bridge the Gap program allows treatment facility patients to request an AA contact in the area they live who then helps them find and attend a meeting. If you are in contact with a facility and want to talk with them about the Bridge the Gap program, let us know.

Our founders focused on carrying the message to other alcoholics in hospitals. They found that their prospects were more receptive when approached in this way. Today, some of our best prospects for recovery have already sought help through a treatment center. The Treatment side of our committee works with District and group treatment representatives to carry the AA message into facilities. If you are involved in taking the message into a facility, or would like to become involved, we are here to help. Come to our Assembly workshop or reach out to us through the Area website.

Can every member or prospective member in your District attend your meeting? The Accessibilities side of our committee helps groups make their meeting accessible to all who want to attend.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the January Assembly.

#### **Birthday Contributions**

#### District 14 Zone D

Cedartown Group Carolyn J – September 8, 2021

Tom L - July 7, 2008

Dallas Group Marek S – October 30, 2011

#### District 17

Luis D

#### ARCHIVES/ archives@aageorgia.org

At The Movies
By Mark G., Chair
Drew H., Co-Chair
Area 16 Archives Committee

Archives will continue its Zoom presentations on January 28 2023. We will be presenting "How the media grew AA." The flyer will be available on the Archives page at aageorgia.org.

The other presentations planned this year are as follows:

3/18 Big Book: Concept to Print 5/27: No Frank Amos, No AA 7/22: The Birth of the General Service Office

We attended the Southeast Cluster Forum in December in New Orleans.

AAWS put on a great forum. The topics were insightful and very interesting. I got to meet some Class A trustees and was humbled by their passion for AA. I would recommend the next one to anyone who asks.

If you are interested in being the cochair of Archives in 2024, please email your service résumé to archives@aageorgia.org.

We are continuing to expand our offerings on the Archives page. The first Delegate telling her story is available and a roundtable discussion of early AA is there as well. It is password protected.

We will be showing "Women of AA" at our evening workshop at Assembly. Bring your own popcorn!

#### PI/CPC / picpc@aageorgia.org

Cooperation With Professionals By William B., Chair Karen A., Co-Chair Area 16 Public Information and Cooperation With the Professional Community Committee

We would like to thank the DCM's and GSR's for approving our budget, which allowed us to be an exhibitor at the Conference for Accountability Court Judges.

We have had overwhelming success with this as we were in front of over 200 court judges as well as hundreds of case managers, police, and probation officers. Thirty people filled out contact cards to receive the PICPC newsletter. This is huge in carrying the message.

During a lunch event, we had the opportunity to share experience, strength, and hope on a more intimate level. We received great feedback during this time.

For 2023, we are writing a proposal to be a presenter at the conference. The agenda we are focusing on is: 1) What AA is and isn't; 2) The AA Traditions and Drug/Alcohol Courts; and 3) How AA Can Help Police & Other Court Professionals. By being a presenter, we will have a several hours in front of the judges with a Q&A session.

We look forward to 2023 and a continued effort to carry the message.

#### CORRECTIONS / corrections@aageorgia.org

#### Carrying the Message Behind Bars By Dawn U., Chair Brad R., Co-Chair Area 16 Corrections Committee

The Corrections Committee has several ways to get involved in service. One way is to carry the message into a state prison or local county jail. The state prisons require you to go through the approval process with the Georgia Department of Corrections. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, you must first complete the training and application form on the website <a href="https://www.gdc.gov">www.gdc.gov</a>.

The local county jails have their own requirements, and you would need to reach out to the facility to confirm its process. We are slowly getting into the state prisons, but it wouldn't hurt to get your badge and be ready for when your local prison has an opportunity.

We also have correspondence and Bridge the Gap. These service commitments can be done from the comfort of your own home. First, correspondence is writing a person in a facility that has more than six months, and usually located at least two states away. Second is Bridge the Gap, in which a member corresponds with a person in custody by mail for about six months

and then meets the person after release to attend a few meetings together.

When a person in custody is released, they have a choice — an AA meeting or going back to their old lifestyle. The member basically helps the inmate understand Alcoholics Anonymous and shows the inmate where the spiritual tools can be found.

If you would like to become a Bridge the Gap correspondent, please let us know.

We also have the Pink Cans for your spare change that we use to purchase AA literature to provide to those in custody. The look on a person in custody's face

when you give them an AA Big book is priceless.

Please join us this year in doing service work in Corrections.



### Delegate Continued from Page 1

levels, we ought to maintain a traditional "Right of Participation," allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.

Do we understand the spiritual principles underlying "Right of Participation"? What does "in reasonable proportion" mean? These are some of the questions from the

Concepts Checklist provided in our General Service Material. How this all comes together for Area 16 is a work in progress. There is still a lot we don't know. We want to encourage all groups to participate with what is available now while we work to bring in other options in the future. There are many Areas facing these same challenges. Our Web and Communications Committees are prepared to move forward. We can help by participating at Assembly now to provide input from our members in Area 16.

In our AA Service Manual it says, "There is another good reason for "participation," and this one has to do with our spiritual needs. All of us deeply desire to belong. We want an AA relation of brotherly partnership. It is our shining ideal that the "spiritual corporation" of AA should never include any members who are regarded as "second class."

Deep down I think this is what we have been struggling to achieve in our world service structure. Here is perhaps the principal reason why we should continue to ensure "participation" at every important level. Just as there are no second class AA's, neither should there be any second-class world service workers, either.

### Alternate Delegate Continued from Page 1

Ellijay). The Area 16 Archives committee will be hosting virtual presentations throughout the year on January 28, March 25, May 25, July 22. Young people and people who feel young are also planning events: 63<sup>rd</sup> ICYPAA (September 1-4, San Francisco) and 30<sup>th</sup> GCYPAA (September, Macon).

There are many more conferences, conventions, and workshops not mentioned here. These types of events are happening all the time. Not only are these events informative and carry the message of AA, they are also a lot of fun. The Big Book tells us, "We aren't a glum lot," on page 132 of Alcoholics Anonymous, and we're not! We like to

fellowship and have a good time. Gathering together to carry the message to others and celebrate sobriety is a highlight of our recovery.

See you soon at the next AA event!

#### **ASSEMBLY RESERVATIONS**

NEED A ROOM AT THE HAMPTON INN & SUITES OF DUBLIN FOR ASSEMBLY?

CALL (478) 246-6055, PLEASE REMEMBER TO TELL THEM THAT YOU ARE WITH THE (GSSA) GEORGIA STATE SERVICE ASSEMBLY, TO GET THE GROUP RATE. PLEASE REMEMBER THE CUT OFF DATE IS FOUR WEEKS PRIOR BUT UPTO ONE WEEK IF ROOMS ARE STILL AVAILIBLE. ROOM RESERVATION COMES WITH FREE WI-FI & FREE BREAKFAST.

I am responsible, when anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there, and for that I am responsible.

#### **CALENDAR of EVENTS**

Events listed here are presented solely as a service to the readers, not as an endorsement by the State Assembly. For any additional information, please use the addresses provided. Please check with the organizers closer to the date regarding cancellations or changes.

Atlanta Intergroup Atlanta January 8

Georgia AA Service Assembly Dublin/OFTC January 20-22

Area 16 Archives Digital Presentation Virtual January 28

43rd Hilton Head Mid-Winter Conf Hilton Head January 27-29

Southeast Delegate Get Together Atlanta February 4-5

Atlanta Intergroup Virtual February 5

The message article deadline for March and April publication is February 1st.

There is no subscription fee for this newsletter, however all contributions are appreciated.

Please mail to: G.S.S.A., P. O. Box 7325, Macon, Ga. 31209



#### GEORGIA STATE (AREA 16) ASSEMBLY WEEKEND

DUBOSE PORTER CENTER / DUBLIN January 20-22, 2023

#### FRIDAY January 20, 2023

8:00 PM OPEN DISCUSSION MEETING

Room 622 Chairperson., Allison B., District 8 PI/CPC Rep

#### SATURDAY January 21, 2023

9:00 AM DELEGATE'S MEETING with AREA CHAIRS/CO CHAIRS

Training Room D Tracy M., Delegate / Tom B., Alternate Delegate

9:00 – 10:45 AM DCM 101 (Part 1 of 3) Training Room C Debi K., Area Chairperson

10:00 AM ASSEMBLY 101: Getting the most out of your Assembly

Training Room G David M., Past Delegate, Area 16 (GA) Panel 58

10:00 AM WEB COMMITTEE Training Room H Dave L., Chairperson

11:00 AM COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Set up system

Auditorium Janie C./ Jackie T. Chairpersons

11:00 AM ARCHIVE MEETING

Training Room C Mark G. / Drew H., Chairpersons

11:00 AM CONVENTION COMMITTEE MEETING

Room 620 Tom B., Alternate Delegate

11:00 AM CORRECTIONS MEETING

Room 611/616 Dawn U. / Brad R., Chairpersons

11:00 AM GRAPEVINE/ LAVINA MEETING

Training Room G Mitch M. / Haley B. / Amparo M., Chairpersons

11:00 AM PI/CPC MEETING

Training Room D William B. / Karen A., Chairpersons

11:00 AM SECRETARY/TREASURER WORKSHOP

Room 622 Bobby O., Area Secretary / Todd B., Area Treasurer

11:00 AM TREATMENT/ ACCESSIBILITIES MEETING

Training Room H Don K. / Claire B., Chairpersons

1:00 PM DCM MEETING
Training Room C Tracy M., Delegate

1:00 PM GSR ORIENTATION (Part 1 of 3) "Translated in Spanish

Auditorium Liz W., Past Secretary, Area 16 (GA)

#### SATURDAY January 21, 2023

3:00 – 5:00 PM GSR WORKSHOP

"GENERAL SERVICE-OUR MIGHTY PURPOSE AND RHYTHM"

The GSR's roll – Derek W., DCM 16C
 The DCM's roll – Ronnie E., DCM 10B

3. Practicing our 12 Traditions - Chris K., DCM 2B



\*Translated in Spanish

Scan for Assembly Evaluation

Ask-it-Basket (David M., Debi K., Tracy M., Tom B., Bobby O., Todd B.,

Derek W., Ronnie E., Chris K.)

#### SATURDAY January 21, 2023 (Continued)

8:00 PM AREA 16 OPEN SPEAKER MEETING

\*Translated in Spanish

Auditorium Chairperson – Wally L., DCM 13A

12 Steps – Lisa D., DCM 16A 12 Traditions – Leslie C. DCM13J Speaker – John S., DCM 13D

9:30 PM AREA WORKSHOPS

Room 622 Archives
Room 611/616 Corrections
Training Room 620 Communications
Training Room G Grapevine

Room 600 Intergroup/Central Office

Training Room D PI/CPC

Training Room H Treatment/Accessibilities

#### SUNDAY September 18, 2022

9:00 AM AREA 16 BUSINESS MEETING \*Translated in Spanish

Auditorium

#### CALL TO ORDER/SERENITY PRAYER Debi K., Area 16 Chairperson

- Delegate's Sharing Tracy M., Area 16 Delegate.
- Recognize Past Area Officers
- 3. Approve Minutes from September 2022 Business Meeting
- Final Report: 69th Prepaid Convention 2022-Dublin
- 5. Report: 70th Prepaid Convention 2023-Augusta
- 6. Area Officer's reports (Alternate Delegate, Secretary, and Treasurer)

#### OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Vote on motion made in May 2022
- 2. Ad Hoc Committee Report on the motion made at September 22 Assembly

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Bid(s) for 72<sup>nd</sup> (2025) Georgia Prepaid Convention
- 2. Presentation and Vote on Redistricting 13D
- 3. Presentation on Hybrid Assembly -Communications Committee
- Approval of New Area Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs: Corrections, Grapevine- LaVina, Treatment and Accessibilities
- General Sharing
- Adjourn with Lord's Prayer (Spanish & English)

#### PLEASE NOTE

IN ORDER TO VOTE ON SUNDAY, A GSR MUST BE SIGNED IN FOR THE BUSINESS MEETING BEFORE 9:00 AM SUNDAY MORNING. (You may sign in at registration desk during the weekend, at the specified times.)

#### A Declaration of Unity

This we owe to AA's future; to place our common welfare first; to keep our Fellowship united.

For on AA unity depend our lives, and the lives of those to come.

Gssa@2006

\*Si desea que le traduzcan una sesión diferente, consulte los traductores