

DELEGATE / delegate@aageorgia.org

Confidential for members

March/April 2021

Volume 57, Numbers 3-4

Understanding the January Board Meeting

**By Debi K.
Area 16 Delegate**

For over 25 years, the delegates elected as Conference Committee chairs have been invited to attend the quarterly Board Weekend and General Service Board Meeting prior to the General Service Conference. We met January 29th-31st with a full agenda, which included AA meetings, General Sharing sessions, Committee meetings, and the General Service Board Quarterly Meeting.

The goal is to build unity and convey goodwill by providing as much accurate information to the Conference chair for each Conference Committee. There are 13 Conference Committees: Agenda, Archives, Finance, Corrections, Literature, Trustees, Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC), Treatment and Accessibilities, Public Information, Policy/Admissions, Grapevine, Report and Char-

ter, and International Conventions and Regional Forums. The delegate participates in the meeting of their corresponding trustees committee.

The Conference committee chair is officially designated as a guest of the trustees' committee or AAGV (Alcoholics Anonymous Grapevine) Board. As guests, delegates have a voice but not a vote. The voice of the Conference committee chair is important when reviewing proposed Conference Agenda items. It is a wonderful opportunity to observe how the trustees operate their committee meetings. They are a dedicated group of people who come together in service for the good of Alcoholics Anonymous. There are 21 trustees: 14 are recovering alcoholics; 7 are non-alcoholics. I was so impressed with the knowledge they have and their love for our Fellowship!

Delegates are elected to serve as chair by their fellow committee members. It is an honor to be one of 13 delegates out of the 93 total delegates elected to serve our Conference work in this capacity. I am honored to serve as the chair of the Con-

ference Committee on Corrections. This weekend also gave me the opportunity to get to know my fellow delegate chairs a little better. Of course, we met virtually, which has its benefits but also drawbacks in the personal connections those of us in service make between the meetings. However, no matter the forum, AA is alive and well and our service structure continues to function during this pandemic.

What is the role of the trustee of Alcoholics Anonymous? *"The trustees of Alcoholics Anonymous are concerned with everything happening inside and outside of AA*

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ALTERNATE DELEGATE / alt_delegate@aageorgia.org

68th Georgia Prepaid Convention

**By Jim T.
Area 16 Alternate Delegate**

It was heartening for me to see such great attendance at our January 2021 Assembly on Zoom. I'd like to thank everyone who joined us and also would like to give a special welcome to all of our new GSRs and DCMs. Although the business meeting on Sunday morning was lengthy and a bit complex at times, everyone's perseverance and willingness to participate was admirable. We are very fortunate to have such a wonderful group of dedicated trusted servants in Area 16 (Georgia).

One of my responsibilities as your Alternate Delegate is to assist with the Georgia Prepaid Conventions. As a result, I have been able to meet with the 68th Prepaid Convention Committee on multiple occasions, and our latest meeting was January 23rd. I am very much looking forward to all

of us being able to gather on Jekyll Island this October 15th through 17th. I cannot think of a more picturesque, relaxing, fun location for us to meet than Jekyll. Deborah, Jimmy, and their entire committee have some great speakers, events, meals, and activities lined up for us to enjoy.

Our AA speakers will be Johnny T. (Lawty, Florida), Beth and Chuck H. (Destin, Florida), Steve L. (Nashville, Tennessee), and Myers R. (Dallas, Texas). Our Al-Anon speaker will be Larcine G., from Hawthorne, California. This is a wonderful lineup of speakers that I know you won't want to miss. There are plans for a speaker dinner on Friday night, so that those interested can get a chance to visit with them and enjoy some fellowship. There is also a banquet planned for Saturday night, October 16th, complete with Jekyll Island tropical cuisine. The menu looks wonderful.

The Prepaid Committee has seven different hotels for you to choose from. Many are within walking distance of the Jekyll Island Convention Center, located at 75 North Beachview Drive. Our host hotel,

Home 2 Suites by Hilton, is very close by. Please see the hotel information on our Area 16 website at aageorgia.org.

Activities will include a golf tournament, mini-golf, a Motorcycle Poker Run, the Dolphin Tour, Yoga, and Sober Trivia Night. These are offered in addition to the normal activities found on Jekyll, such as bicycling, sightseeing, and simple walks on the beach. It will have been two years since we all have been able to gather together (Savannah 2019) for a Prepaid, and Jekyll will offer us a beautiful setting for our single largest event of the year.

We currently have only 80 members registered for the 68th Prepaid. I would like to urge each of you to register. There is no cost associated for our members to attend, so why not go ahead and sign up? Registration can be done easily on our website. Just click on the link on our homepage and enter your information. This is very helpful to the Committee as it allows them to better plan an enjoyable weekend for us. I look forward to seeing everyone as we meet on Jekyll in October!

TREASURER / treasurer@aageorgia.org

New Year, New Us

**By Kelly G.
Area 16 Treasurer**

I am pleased to report that I survived my first Assembly. As you know, we did not meet in the conventional way but nonetheless, I was with all of you and able to report the finances of Area 16. I want to thank all of you who joined the Secretary & Treasurer workshop on Saturday. We had great discussion throughout. I always want to hear what you have to say and what you are interested in specifically because it helps me to edit and enhance my presentations going forward.

Last year was anything but normal. Our total income for 2020 was \$203,505.56, while our total expenses were \$182,415.25. This amounts to an annual profit of \$21,090.31. We want to thank our groups for stepping up to set up online contribution accounts to keep contributions flowing. This has not been an easy year, and we have all had to change the way we think and do things. I want to thank you for your efforts and commitment.

We are hopeful that 2021 brings us back together, and our new, DCM-approved budget reflects that. We anticipate \$282,310.67 in income and \$282,301.12 in expenses. The budget was created based on the work we are committed to fulfilling regarding Your Voice Matters. You are encouraged to continue to contribute to GSSA to fund the services needed to help the still sick and suffering alcoholics in Georgia.

I am receiving emails lately from members who have a desire to help their groups and/or districts set up online contribution accounts. I have created an instruction manual for a few online accounts that can be set up. You will want to go to aageorgia.org, hover over Service and then Area 16 Sec/Treas and click "Treasurer." Under additional resources, you will find the instructions. If you need help, feel free to email me.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to serve. I am excited to continue working with all of you: virtually and/or in person.

SECRETARY / secretary@aageorgia.org

Rebuilding Relationships is the Solution

**By Liz W.
Area 16 Secretary**

It was wonderful to "see" you all at the virtual Assembly in January. I really miss seeing all of you in person, and I'm looking forward to the time we will be able to be together again.

I have found that alcoholism is a disease of separation. It separates us from our loved ones, our God and even ourselves. So, if the problem is separation, a good part of the solution has to be in rebuilding relationships. The most important aspect in building relationships is effective communication.

"Just as the aim of each AA member is personal sobriety, the aim of our services is to bring sobriety within reach of all who want it. If nobody does the group's chores, if the area's telephone rings unanswered, if we do not reply to our mail, then AA as we know it would stop. Our communications lines with those who need our help would be broken." — Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, page 175

It's more important now, while we are unable to reach out physically to the newcomer, that we maintain our flow of communication. The best way to do that is to keep everyone informed of group and meeting changes so that no one shows up to a location to find the doors locked.

In better times, Joe and I have gone out of town and looked for a meeting, only to find that the group had relocated. Thankfully, we had other tools to stay sober, but that isn't true for the newcomer. The lifeblood of our Fellowship is the service we provide to the still sick and suffering alcoholic. Imagine needing a meeting and not being able to find one. We are truly fortunate that we have so many platforms available today to carry the message, but no one can find an unlisted meeting.

Please remember to update your group information with GSSA and your Central Office or Intergroup. It could be the difference between life and death for someone who we need, as much as they need us.

SELF-SUPPORT GROUP CONTRIBUTION PLANS TO AA SERVICE ENTITIES

"To help support AA's essential services, the General Service Conference suggests that individual groups, *through an informed group conscience*, adopt a specific contribution plan tailored to meet the group's financial situation."

-Self-Support: Where Money & Spirituality Mix

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

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

Group Conscience Decision

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

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

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

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

*If you need additional information,
please call 478-745-2588
or visit aageorgia.org*

**GRAPEVINE /
grapevine@aageorgia.org**

Happy, Joyous & Free

**Whitney S., Chair
Mark J., Co-Chair
Area 16 Grapevine Committee**

Our very first literature meeting was a success. We are reading Happy, Joyous & Free/Felices, Alegres & Libres, a book from the Grapevine library. You may purchase the book from <https://www.aageorgia.org/aagrapevine.html> or <https://lytienda.aagrapevine.org/felices-alegres-y-libres>. The ebooks are also available from <https://store.aagrapevine.org/happy-joyous-free-ebook> or <https://lytienda.aagrapevine.org/felices-alegres-y-libres-ebooklibro-electronico>. Please encourage your District, Zone and Group reps to join. However, everyone is welcome. The room will open at 8:45 a.m. for fellowship and close at 10:15 a.m. The best part of every meeting is the meeting before and after the meeting.

Ever considered submitting a story or joke for the Grapevine or La Vina but were unsure of how? Learn how to successfully submit an entry for consideration during our first Writing Workshop. The workshop is to be led by a Grapevine/La Viña trusted servant from New York.

GRAPEVINE AREA EVENTS

Area 16 Grapevine/La Viña Literature Meeting
2nd Sunday of every month @ 9 a.m. EST
Zoom ID: 864 0033 3733
Password: 606541

Area 16 Grapevine/La Viña Writing Workshop
March 6th from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. EST
Meeting ID: 885 1451 1684
Passcode: 483099

GRAPEVINE DISTRICT EVENTS

District 7A — Grape-A-Thon: "A Leap into Recovery"
The Theme is from the Grapevine book Into Action.
March 20th from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. EST
595 Wimbish Road
Macon, GA 31210
Meeting ID: 898 4050 0632
Password: 044577

Note that this is a hybrid event (in-person and virtual)

District 11B —Grapevine Virtual Meeting
2nd Wednesday of the month @ 7:30 p.m. EST
Meeting ID: 829 7159 4699
Password: BigBook

PI/CPC / picpc@aageorgia.org

In the Middle

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

As with any committee or service position, communication and relationship-building are essential to the tasks we face on a daily basis. While Tradition 9 states, "we ought never be organized: but we may create boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve," part of the responsibility is responding to the needs that correlate to our commitment.

This Division of Responsibility helps us to be more efficient with our work and allows people to immerse themselves in a position so they can make the most informed decisions. Tradition 9 goes on to say that "great suffering and great love are AA's disciplinarians; we need no others" and also that there is a "difference between the spirit of vested authority and the spirit of service." (Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, page 174)

As trusted servants, our members vote us in and trust us to make the most informed decisions in that arena. Connection and communication are essential to the transmission of accurate data back to our groups.

As the tradition states, "AA's can't be dictated to—individually or collectively." (Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, page 174)

The legacy of Unity teaches me to work with others and stay in the middle. I collect info from both GSO and the groups to help make informed decisions about the priorities at hand. I consider my service position more of connecting people and resources while offering support. The divisions of responsibility aren't meant to be restrictive. In times when volunteers are minimal, we sometimes have to wear many hats. The scope of a service position helps me to be more focused and efficient. The spirit of rotation helps me to let go and learn something new.

Delegate

Continued from Page 1

that may affect the health and growth of the movement. However, as the Charter points out, their duties are essentially custodial." (AA Service Manual S64). Their primary mission is to "serve the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous." (S66).

The trustees committees meet quarterly while the Conference committees meet primarily during conference week. The role of the trustees committees is to implement the Advisory Actions approved at Conference. It was wonderful to participate as an observer at these meetings. I heard rich discussion based on their knowledge and passion and the desire to do what was best for AA as a whole in reaching out to the still suffering alcoholic. No decision is taken lightly; all options are weighed carefully, and every voice is heard. There are differences of opinion, which are treated with respect and given careful and thoughtful attention. Decisions always came back to what is best for the Fellowship.

It was an honor and a privilege to participate as an observer. I know that Alcoholics Anonymous is in good hands and what is laid out in our Steps, Traditions, and Concepts continues to work!

Things We Cannot Change

Ross McC

Past Area Archive Chair
Passed January 10, 2021

John H

Area Taper
Passed December 25, 2020

George P

Flint River Group
Passed December 16, 2020
Sobriety Date: August 8, 1992

Ann H

District 16, Zone C
For the Fun of It Group
Passed January 10, 2021
Sobriety Date: October 23, 1974

James L

District 1, Zone A
Cairo Group
Passed January 11, 2021

An Evening with Bill in Pictures

By Mike S., Chair,
Mark G., Co-Chair
Area 16 Archives Committee

We would like to thank all of you who have taken the time to view our first Zoom presentation, "An Evening with Bill in Pictures". It is still available on aageorgia.org if you have not seen it yet.

We are happy to announce the formation of a Zoom Presentation committee. We have a chair (Drew H.), but we are looking for members to support him. If you are an archivist or just a lover of AA history, we need your help. If you have an AA history presentation that can be presented in a Zoom format, we would like to talk to you. Just send an email to us with your contact information and we will be in touch.

We are finalizing our next presentation, which will touch on the life of Dr. Bob. If you would like to be notified of the date and time just send us an email.

We are also gathering information of other AA historical presentations and sharing that information with everyone on our mailing list. If you have a flyer with a presentation, please email it to us. We would be glad to share it.

If you would like to join our email list, simply share your email with us and will happily add you the list.

We look forward to being with you in the future, whether it is electronically or face-to-face.

archives@aageorgia.org

Help Wanted: (Another Growth Opportunity)

By Chuck H., Chair,
Janie C., Co-Chair
Area 16 Communications Committee

The Area 16 Communications Committee is in need of some volunteers. We have a great team of web developers who meet regularly to make improvements to our website. We have translators who are assisting us in communicating with folks who have difficulty with spoken English language. But we need help in getting this newsletter published, and with presenting our Area Assembly via Zoom, especially when we go back to an in-person venue.

Publisher: Takes the written and edited articles from the service committee chairs, and other information provided by the GSSA State Office, and puts them into a newsletter format using a Publisher program.

WIX Developer: Someone with experience creating and supporting a mid-level complexity website.

Web Conference Coordinator: Someone with experience (Zoom or Meet) hosting a hybrid, in-person and virtual conference.

GSuite Administrator or Trainer: As part of our transition to Gmail, we are new to GSuite as an organization and need help teaching people how to use all the tools we now have available.

Project Manager: Our website committee is regularly getting requests for new projects, and we need some people who can organize projects and keep them moving forward.

Like almost all service work, these involve some on-the-job training and opportunities for learning, growth, and humility. If you would like to volunteer, please email us.

communications@aageorgia.org

CORRECTIONS / corrections@aageorgia.org

Spring Forward

By David J., Chair
Dawn U., Co-Chair
Area 16 Corrections Committee

At our January Assembly, Dawn U. was voted in as our Area 16 co-chair. Thank you for the support! She is continuing her great work in corrections. I would also like to offer one more thank you to Ken P. for his work over the past four years.

March brings us Daylight Saving Time with the reminder to spring forward. Great advice for our efforts this year as we look forward to getting back to service work inside the walls. We have gotten contact information for all of our jails. This will support our work expanding the Corrections website to provide service contacts.

Looking back at this last year, we see that more effort is needed to support those attending meetings before they go to prison or jail. Many go into prison already sober and look for ways to continue working the Twelve Steps while incarcerated.

We have also seen Georgia's prison population drop by about 5,000 inmates — all of these people are back in your town. We are working on improving Bridge the Gap so they will attend a meeting their first day of release.

We have been surprised at how many jails have videoconferencing services. This does allow for sponsor-sponsee work. We will begin our Corrections e-newsletter shortly as Dawn and I will be speaking with the Department of Corrections this month

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.

THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA

Treatment /Accessibilities

treatment@aageorgia.org

Let's Get Involved

By Karen S., Chair,
Pearse M

Karen S., Co-Chair,
Area 16 Treatment /
Accessibilities Committee

Our committee would like to welcome Pearse M. as our new co-chair for Treatment / Accessibilities. We appreciate his service and hard work. Please reach out to us. We look forward to hearing from you.

It was great to see so many new faces as well as familiar ones at our January Assembly workshop. We sure hope the enthusiasm carries back to your groups. Our state still has several areas and groups that do not have Treatment / Accessibilities reps. Please get in-

involved! "Frequent contact with newcomers and with each other is the bright spot of our lives." (Alcoholics Anonymous, page 89)

Our committee will also be working on a Bridge the Gap workshop. More details and information will be sent out later.

As our responsibility declaration states, "I want the hand of AA always to be there." We must not forget about our friends with special needs. I ask myself if I am doing my part to make sure the message is available to all. Sometimes simple communication is the key. Please let us know if your group has any problems that you may need help with or any solutions you would like to share with us.

treatment@aageorgia.org

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 that the cut off date is up to one week prior to Assembly if rooms are still available.

Room reservation comes with Free Wi-Fi and Free Breakfast.

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.

| | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Coffee & Conversation (7:00 P.M.) | Zoom Meeting (link aageorgia.org) | March 3 |
| Grapevine/La Viña Writing Workshop | Zoom ID 885 1451 1684 PW 483099 | March 6 |
| Grapevine Committee (9:00 A.M.) | Zoom ID 864 0033 3733 PW 606541 | March 14 |
| DCM Pre-Conference Meeting | Virtual | April 3 |
| Coffee & Conversation (7:00 P.M.) | Zoom Meeting (link aageorgia.org) | April 7 |
| Grapevine Committee (9:00 A.M.) | Zoom ID 864 0033 3733 PW 606541 | April 11 |
| 70th General Service Conference | Virtual | April 18 - 24 |

The Message article deadline for May and June publication is April 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

THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA

Georgia State Service Assembly Virtual Business Meeting Minutes Sunday January 17, 2021 Pending Approval at the May 2021 BUSINESS MEETING

CALL TO ORDER/SERENITY PRAYER Rick M., Area 16
Chairperson

Delegate's Sharing

Good morning, my name is Debi Keane, and I am alcoholic. It is an honor to serve as Delegate for Area 16 as a member of Panel 70. We have fondly dubbed ourselves the Pandemic Panel 70 Pioneers. It is good to see all your faces here this morning. These are unprecedented times, but it warms my heart to see the work of Alcoholics Anonymous continue! Thank you for all you do to continue to carry the message of hope and recovery!

Raise your virtual hand if this is your first time at our Area Assembly. Great! Welcome!! It may seem a bit overwhelming at first, but as you continue to come back, you will learn more and more about our service structure in Area 16. We are all here to support one another on this journey in service to Alcoholics Anonymous.

Welcome GSRs! The General Service Representative (GSR) is the link between your home group with the whole of A.A. In 1950, a new type of trusted servant, "group representative," was suggested to help in the selection of delegates to the newly formed General Service Conference. By 1953, the job of group representative was also seen as a good means of exchanging up-to-date information between individual groups and "Headquarters" (now the General Service Office). That's still an important side of your work. But now, as general service representative, you have an even bigger responsibility: You transmit ideas and opinions, as well as facts. Through you, the group conscience becomes a part of "the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship," as expressed in the General Service Conference. I am so glad you are here!

These are difficult times for many of us. Alcoholics Anonymous is not immune to what occurs in the world we live in. However, we are a spiritual entity with one primary purpose: to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. Although many of our members are disillusioned with having our meetings through virtual platforms, we are still attracting newcomers. It is important for us to be present at virtual meetings for those who are attending for the first time. In large measure, however, the rise of virtual meetings has allowed thousands of people to find help from Alcoholics Anonymous during the current crisis and many of these virtual meetings are expected to continue when the pandemic is over. I have seen this in my own home group and have heard the same from many of you. I think it is important for us to embrace what we have available to us, however challenging it may seem. I hope you will continue to join us within our virtual AA rooms. The message of AA remains the same.

I was reading in Language of the Heart recently and found this quote from Bill W written in April 1946:

"Since personal calamity holds us in bondage no more, our most challenging concern has become the future of Alcoholics Anonymous; how to preserve among us AAs such a powerful unity that neither weakness of persons nor the strain and strife of these troubled times can harm our common cause. We know that Alcoholics Anonymous must continue to live. Else, save few exceptions, we and our fellow alcoholics

throughout the world will surely resume the hopeless journey into oblivion."

I believe that we will continue to thrive, and our unity will remain intact.

We have not had the opportunity to connect face to face since our January 2020 Assembly. I miss seeing you and hearing about how you are doing and what is happening in your groups! To keep in touch, I have been hosting a monthly **Coffee and Conversation** meeting on Zoom. All members are welcome! We meet virtually on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM for an hour to chat. I provide updates from the Area and GSO. You can pose questions or share information on your districts and groups. The format will be very informal. This is a great way for those of you who are new to service to learn about our service structure and feel free to pose questions

I have enjoyed getting to know many of you and look forward to getting to know more of you! The next Coffee and Conversation will be held on Feb. 3rd. Bring your coffee and your questions! (Zoom ID: 930 561 7418; PW: Coffee)

Now, let me provide updates from our Committees, starting with the Grapevine. Each month, the Grapevine Area 16 Chairs, have begun hosting a monthly meeting. They will be reading from the Grapevine book, **Happy, Joyous, and Free** and sharing on the article. In addition, they will share the latest information on the GV and ways in which group and district GV chairs can be of service. This is a great way for everyone to connect! This meeting is open to all members, especially GV Reps, District Reps, and members outside of Area 16. We had our first meeting on January 10th and we had participants from various areas around the country, including NC and NM!

The next meeting will be held on Feb. 14th at 9 AM. We hope to share our love for the GV on Valentine's Day!

Your Voice Matters: I wanted to give you an update on the work we've been doing behind the scenes to move forward in implementing the action steps from the Your Voice Matters Action Plan. For those of you who are new to our Assembly, back in May 2019, we had an activity with our members to discuss recommendations made from a Communications Audit completed on behalf of our General Service Board. We had over 350 members participate. Each member had the opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas on the recommendations. In September, an action planning committee was formed. This action planning committee worked to develop specific action steps to put your ideas in place. They gave their final report and presented our action plan, aligned to with the General Service Board strategic plan at the May 2020 Assembly. We have been working towards completing these activities. Jim will provide an update on our work with supporting our DCMs.

The Web committee, under the guidance of the Communications Committee, is beginning the work of website redesign. They included cost estimates in the 2021 budget. We are in the process of transitioning from the 1:1 email system to GSuite. This should be completed as soon as all our DCMs access the new email platform and will make accessibility to email communication for our DCMs an easier process. If you are a DCM, and have not accessed your new email account, please contact the webmaster at

THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA

webmaster@aageorgia.org or Tamera at our State Office at gssa@aageorgia.org.

Our Committee chairs, including PICPC/Treatment/Corrections/Archives/Grapevine have been seeking input from those who serve as local committee reps to update their email databases. The purpose of these email data bases is to be able to communicate efficiently and share important information. They have also been developing data bases to include professionals who support our outreach. If you are serving in this capacity at the District or group level, please email the Committee Chair to provide them your contact information.

Yesterday morning, Rick led our “reborn” DCM 101 workshop. We look forward to supporting new DCMs as they continue in their service to their districts and zones within Area 16.

The Office Committee has held frequent Office Committee meetings on a virtual platform since the pandemic began. We also hosted two DCM meetings, Committee Chair meeting, Budget and Finance Committee meetings, and two Area Assemblies using the video-conferencing platform. This saves time and travel costs for all who participate but still allows us to keep the lines of communication open.

In the spirit of rotation, I will be rotating out at the end of this year. It is time for those who are interested to step up to service. At our May Assembly, the Area Secretary will have a roll call of the DCMs. All 2nd year DCMs are automatically eligible for nomination for Delegate. During roll call, those who are qualified will signify as to their availability for election or withdraw. This includes the Alternate Delegate who must indicate availability. The Chairperson will then ask for any nominations from the floor. These nominees shall come from past DCMs and shall meet the qualifications. When such nominations are made and seconded from the floor, the Chairperson shall then ask for a show of hands and a 2/3 majority is required.

The qualifications for Delegate are listed on pages 18 and 19 of our Georgia State Service Manual:

- Five years continuous sobriety in the State of Georgia
- Understanding and appreciation of the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts
- Able to organize and lead: Servant v Senator.
- Minimum of 1 year as a GSR
- In office for 12 months prior
- Have adequate time.
- Have an intense desire to see AA prosper.
- Financially able
- Be well prepared to place principles before personalities.

To be eligible to run for Alternate Delegate, a candidate must be available to run for Delegate. If he/she runs for Delegate, he/she must run for the Alternate (unless he/she has already served as the Alternate).

Our General Service Office in NY employees have been busy providing AA Services through remote access. AAWS is continuing to process literature orders. We are also processing literature orders at our Georgia State Office. Our GSO staff hopes to be back in their offices in March but it will depend on the current situation with the pandemic.

After the 71st General Service Conference, our General Board Chair will be rotating out. The board voted to put forward the

name of Linda Chezem to the 71st GSC on the slate of trustees for approval. The slate will be voted on at the Conference.

Ms. Chezem, a Class A (non-alcoholic) trustee served as an attorney and Circuit Court and Appeals Court judge in Paoli, Indiana. She currently serves as an adjunct professor at Indiana University's School of Medicine where she works on federal, state, and local policy on agriculture, alcohol, and related rural health issues.

As previously announced, Greg T. will leave the position of General Manager of the General Service Office effective February 1, 2021. The General Manager search committee continues its process to identify a qualified successor for the role. In the meantime, Stephanie L., Senior Director of Administration and Strategy, will serve as Interim General Manager, effective immediately. For the past two years, Stephanie has worked closely with the General Manager and colleagues as an organizational leader at the GSO, with managerial oversight of human resources, technology services and operations. As interim General Manager, Stephanie will have the same management and signing authority as the General Manager, but she will not serve as a member of the AAWS Board or a member of the General Service Conference. We look forward to supporting Stephanie in her interim role as we continue to carry the AA message.

World Service Meeting: Delegates representing Alcoholics Anonymous from around the world gathered via videoconference November 28-30th for the 26th World Service Meeting (WSM), hosted by the trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous in the U.S. and Canada. Because of the Coronavirus pandemic, the three-day event was held virtually for the first time in its history, attended by 69 delegates from 44 countries. Simultaneously translated in Spanish and Japanese, workshops, presentations and general sharing sessions addressed such issues as developing A.A. literature in multiple languages; the importance of women's participation in A.A.'s service structure; and maintaining A.A.'s traditional anonymity in an age of social media.

This is always a wonderful event as we can see the impact of AA around the world! It is not always easy for some of our delegates to participate in this meeting. One delegate from Venezuela was restricted from attending the meeting due to the current political situation in that county. This delegate actually “snuck in” to neighboring Columbia where he had to hike through the wilderness and cross a river to get to a destination where he could participate in the WSM. I would call that willing to go to any length!

There is a new book that will be available from AAWS entitled *A Visual History of Alcoholics Anonymous: An Archival Journey*. It is available for pre-order now on aa.org. Early bird pricing –save \$1 through Jan 31st (\$11) It will be \$12 after that date. The book will be available on Feb. 14th, 2021. Another Valentine's Day gift! [Welcome to the store \(aa.org\)](http://aa.org)

The Meeting Guide App now allows groups to post hybrid meetings. You can share this information with Tamera at gssa@aageorgia.org and she will update the data base which is uploaded into Meeting Guide. If you are a new GSR, please update your Group Information form. Tamera will send the info to our GSO in NY and they will send you a kit containing lots of helpful tools.

[Alcoholics Anonymous of Georgia | Update Group Trusted Servants \(aageorgia.org\)](http://aa.org)

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Grapevine 2021 Carry the Message project. You can give a Gift Subscription to a friend, a sponsee, doctor's offices, or for giveaways at anniversaries or events at your homegroup, district, or area level. Step by step instructions are available on aagrapevine.org. There is an informational video available on the AA Grapevine YouTube Channel if you are interested in learning more. The links will be included in the report posted in the Georgia Message.

<https://youtu.be/V55DUDvisCQ>

[Microsoft Word - Edited-CTM-Copy-Challenge2020.docx \(aagrapevine.org\)](#)

La Vina's new website is up and running and has been programmed in Spanish!

Look forward to the publication of a new La Vina book for Hispanic Women in Spring 2021.

A Covid 19 project was initiated in August of 2020. This is being managed by our digital archivist Stephanie G. Both internal and external material is being archived. Some of this material includes communication with news agencies from our Public Information assignment desk about online meetings and shared staff experience in response to AA members' inquiries; interviews; and more. To date, over 235 materials have been archived. We can look forward to seeing a documentation of AA during COVID-19 19.

The Conference Committee on Archives asks that a proposed book on AA History (from 1955 to present) be reviewed to include possible themes, content ideas, and the period covered. Several interesting considerations mentioned include: The Contributions of Women in AA; growth of AA overseas; unpublished photos, etc.

Because the group would require at least three to five months of regular access to the archival holdings to begin to develop a framework for such a book and given that the office has been closed, the working group is unable to commence any research at this time. However, the book is still under consideration. Something to look forward to in the future!

Improvements to the virtual GSC. Last year, the GSO had 6 weeks to plan and implement a virtual conference. This was quite an undertaking! With a limited amount of time, the decision was made to hold an abbreviated conference. After gathering and processing feedback from the Conference participants, the board made some important decisions regarding the virtual 71st GSC. Time requirements will not be cut at GSC this year. A subcommittee on Conference improvements is looking at the schedule and activities to make sure we have enough time for committee work, reports, and discussion. The subcommittee is also working on ways to better address Points of Orders, Points of Information, and Points of Clarification and improve the Floor Action process. We appreciate the fact that our thoughts and ideas are taken into consideration. It is going to be a busy conference with many agenda items to consider. Reminder: Agenda items and background material will be posted on aageorgia.org in mid-February under **Service >Reports>Delegate Reports>2021 Conference Materials**. We have also posted a PowerPoint to provide tips in reviewing the Conference Documents. We will notify DCMs through their District email box once the materials have been posted.

Public Information Media Platforms -The trustees committee continues to examine ways to best implement and utilize available media platforms including: the A.A.W.S. YouTube channel, Google AdWords/Grants, the A.A.W.S. Meeting Guide app, and the G.S.O. and AA Grapevine/La Viña Websites. The committee suggested continuing and expanding cooperation between the G.S.O. and AA Grapevine/La Viña websites and other digital assets.

GSO Podcast - The committee discussed a request to create a G.S.O. podcast. They reviewed the Communication Services department research regarding possible formats, discussion topics, target markets and other subjects. There is a need for a more comprehensive discussion on how the corporate boards are utilizing resources, including digital assets as well as internal and external communications, to their best effectiveness. You may remember the suggestion to utilize podcasts as a mode of communication was expressed in our Your Voice Matters activity.

There are a few videos for professionals posted on our AA World Services YouTube Channel. Our nominee for General Service Board Chair, Linda Chezem, a non-alcoholic, is featured in the video on AA for Legal and Corrections Professionals.

Agenda item from the 70th GSC regarding expanding the use of the LinkedIn page was forwarded to the 71st GSC. The committee requested a progress report and background material in order to inform their discussion

From our Corrections Committee: As many of us are not going into facilities during the pandemic, committee members have developed lists of our members behind the walls through their local area Corrections Committees and have been writing to them in both written letters and email formats. Our pilot project in Maine to provide digital materials to our members behind the walls is going very well and we are looking at ways we can expand those services throughout the country.

Correspondence on the Corrections desk has ramped up throughout the period of pandemic shutdowns. Currently, we need volunteers (women and men) to correspond with our members behind the walls; we are going to revamp our Corrections Correspondence database and platform to ensure completeness and accuracy of contact information. Many groups are not able to go into facilities during the pandemic. There is a real need for outside members to correspond with members who are incarcerated through the Corrections Correspondence program. You can complete the form (F-26) and email it to the Corrections Desk at GSO. Please consider doing this valuable service work. I've included links to the needed forms in my report.

[F-26 Sign-up to be a Corrections Correspondent Form \(aa.org\)](#)

The National Corrections Conference will be held in New Orleans Nov. 12-14, 2021. This is being planned as a live conference. You can register online at [2021 National Corrections Conference](#). The registration fee is \$35. There is a plan to visit the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola the day prior to the start of the conference. Unfortunately, the original conference hotel has gone out of business. The committee is working to obtain a contract with a new hotel and has several options. That information is forthcoming.

Treatment and Accessibilities- the committee has been gathering stories to update the pamphlet, "A.A. for the Older Alcoholic": The committee received a limited number of stories and sent an additional request to allow for audio stories to be submitted by Dec. 15th. In January, the staff secretary will provide an updated report.

Particularly now, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, if a professional is looking to refer a patient who is struggling with alcoholism to an online meeting, there are five basic formats to choose from: email meetings where an email is sent out on a specific topic; chat (text) that includes a live chat following the same format as a face-to-face meeting; discussion forums or message boards where a topic is posted and group members post (these are active 24/7); the telephone, where meetings are con-

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ducted via a conference-call format; and lastly, meetings on a variety of audio/video platforms (such as Skype, Web-Ex, Zoom, Paltalk and others) that adhere to a similar format as in-person meetings. There is an article in the Summer edition of About AA-A Newsletter for Professionals that includes information to support professionals working in the treatment field.

[F-13 - About A.A. - A Newsletter for Professionals - Summer 2020](#)

Finance and Budgetary:

Revenue & Expenses: Individual/group contributions revenue as of 11/30/20 is \$8,868,455. With 92% of the year elapsed, we have raised 90% of the expected amount. Since contributions tend to peak in October and December, we appear to be on track to meet or exceed the reforecast. Gross literature sales revenue as of 11/30/20 is \$8,681,943. With 92% of the year elapsed, we have generated 88% of the expected amount. Since literature sales tend to peak in December, we appear to be on track to meet or exceed the reforecast. We hope this trend continued in December of 2020.

NOTE: The revenue listed about reflects funds brought in for both contributions and literature sales. It does not reflect any expenses incurred. To get to the bottom line, you would subtract the total cost of goods sold (manufacturing, warehouse & shipping) which was \$2,028,488. When you subtract the amount of expenses, the revenue total it equals \$15,521,910 (net profit) giving us a surplus. However, we are still expecting a small deficit of \$337,000 for 2020 because of expenses that will be coming up at the end of the year.

The revenue split between gross profit on publications and contributions is about 41% publications/59% contributions this year whereas in 2018 it was 58% publications/42% contributions. Total expenses as of 11/30/2020 are \$15,131,971. With 92% of the year elapsed, we have spent 91% of the expected amount. As of November 30th, there is a surplus of \$369,000. The reforecast anticipates a deficit of \$337,000 for 2020.

Reserve Fund: On September 30, 2020, the Reserve Fund had a balance of \$12,188,406. The current balance covers 7.67 months of operating expenses. Due to the financial impact of COVID-19 on the organization, there has been a total withdrawal of \$4M from the Reserve Fund in 2020.

If you recall, a drawdown of 1.5 million was **approved** in October to deal with a cash flow issue but only \$1 million has been pulled. If necessary, the .5 million will be available until the end of the year. If that additional amount is needed is, it will lower the Reserve Fund to 7.35 months. At this time, it doesn't look like it will be necessary.

As a result of lots of discussion, The Finance Ad Hoc Committee on Google Grants and the 7th Tradition has been researching:

What are our financial obligations if any in receiving and signing contracts with Google?

What are we providing Google?

What is the difference of receiving in-kind services versus in-kind donations?

The ad hoc committee wants to review policies and procedures that fall under this topic as well as reference any Conference advisory actions that speak to discounts and so forth, with the goal of reporting out the purpose of Google Grants for nonprofits and understanding how we report them on our financial statements. The goal is to present a final report to Trustees Public Information by the January Board meeting so that it can be ready to go back to the Conference PI committee.

Accessibility of the Big Book – Common Solutions

The presentation "The Big Book: Researching Issues, Possible Tools and Access – has been recorded in English and the Pub-

lishing Department is working on captioning in both French and Spanish and then getting it posted to the dashboard. Our SE regional trustee, Cathy B., gave the presentation to our September 2020 Area Assembly.

A.A. for the Black and African American Alcoholic – There was lots of passionate discussion at the 70th GSC in updating this pamphlet to include fresh stories and develop a new title that is respectful and inclusive. The trustees committee is considering how best to get submissions and how to put together a working group (like the one for the Spanish Speaking Women pamphlet—they utilized an audio format) that will ensure the content is relevant.

The Northeast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (NERAASA) will be held virtually on Zoom Feb 26th-28th. Registration is \$21. Register online at neraasa.org

John H lost his battle with the COVID-19 virus on Christmas Day. John served as our Assembly and Prepaid taper for the past few years. We also lost two past area officers to COVID-19. Ben D, who served as past Area Treasurer, passed away on Jan. 8th, and Ross McConnell, past Archives chair, passed away on Jan. 10th. These gentlemen were all trusted servants to our Fellowship and will be greatly missed. There are many who have lost their battle with this devastating virus who we may not know about but that does not diminish the impact of their loss. Please keep their families in your prayers.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your Panel 70 Delegate. I am grateful to all of you!

delegate@aageorgia.org

Recognition of past Area Officers

Approve Minutes from September 2020 Virtual Assembly

Poll to approve minutes: 153 in favor, none opposed

Report from 2021 Prepaid – Jekyll Island

Good morning! My name is Deborah C. and I am honored to be serving as your chair for the 68th Prepaid Convention on Jekyll Island, October 2021, to be held at the Convention Center on Jekyll Island, which is a breathtakingly beautiful venue, located just steps from the beach. Our committee voted on starting on Friday instead of Thursday in order to keep expenses within budget. My co-chair is Jimmy M. who has done an outstanding job in putting this all together. Our Secretary is Peggy M. The Treasurer is Jane D. that watches every penny, so we're grateful for her service. The following are other committee chairs: Registration: Suzanne R. Speakers: Norma H., Program: Gabby M., Banquet & meals: Robbin M., Activities and Entertainment: Glen B. (Big Dog) and our Literature Chair: Trey A. and Volunteer Chair: Cheryl F. I thank all of these and their co-chairs for their service.

Our Theme is A.A. in a Time of Change. How appropriate for this unsettled time. Our Host Hotel is the Home2Suites by Hilton, and also the location of our Hospitality Suite, which is right out the back door of the Convention Center and a short stroll past the new shops that have been built since our last convention in 2014.

If you haven't been to Jekyll in a while, you are in for a treat. There have been extensive updates and improvements all over the island. There are many more hotels and restaurants along with shopping options that were not available in 2014. There are digital screens throughout the Convention Center which will allow us to be ecologically responsible as we won't have to have so much paper printing. Upcoming events/speakers/times and meeting rooms will scroll on these boards allowing you

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access to information you may need or want. We will have a table set up with volunteers to guide, direct and provide information on all activities offered on the Island as needed.

Our Speakers are:

Johnny T. of Lawty, FL. If you've never heard Johnny, you're in for a treat. He's also going to do some workshops for us on working the 12 Steps in a weekend.
Beth & Chuck H. – Destin FL. Are a husband and wife AA team. Both are going to speak individually but also have another workshop, probably on relationships. We'll update later in that regard.

Steve L – Nashville, TN

Myers R. – Dallas, TX

Our Al-Anon Speaker is Larcine G. – Hawthorne, CA

There will be Speaker meetings Friday afternoon and Friday night, an Al-Anon speaker meeting on Saturday morning, an AA speaker meeting Saturday afternoon and Saturday night and our Sunday morning speaker meeting will be held at 9:00 AM to allow those traveling to attend and still leave early enough to get home.

Gary H. said he and his sponsor, Jim J., will hold morning sunrise meetings on the beach and will supply coffee for the same if needed.

Our Activities Chair proposes the following: "Big", Golf, a Miniature Golf tournament, a motorcycle poker run, game night/sober trivia, Trolley tours around the island, scavenger hunts and the Dolphin Tour.

We have contracts for 450 rooms on the Island. There are many more rooms available, if needed. Here is the pricing for our room blocks: All pricings will have normal taxes added.

Host Hotel: Home2Suites by Hilton: \$169.00. It is pet friendly, has in-suite kitchens, free breakfast and just steps from the beach and Convention Center. **912-319-6019**

Days Inn & Suites: \$119.00 for Island Side room and \$129.00 for Oceanside room. **912-687-4327**

The Westin: This hotel is right next to the ocean. Island view rooms \$199.00/ Ocean view with balcony \$229.00.

Holiday Inn Resort: On the beach as well. Island view \$179.00/ Ocean view \$199.00/ Oceanfront Suite \$259.00. **912-635-2211**

Seafarer Inn and Suites: Room rates range from \$115.00 to \$142.00. **(912-635-2202)**

Hampton Inn & Suites: King Suite \$204.00/ Standard Double Queen \$184.00 **(912-635-3733)**

Villas by the Sea: Mini Villa/Studio \$109.00/ One bedroom \$129.00/ 2 bedroom \$179.00/ 3 bedroom \$209.00 **(912-635-2521)**

If you haven't already registered for the convention we encourage you to do so. Please remember the Convention is FREE for Georgia members of AA and registration for out of state, Al-Anon and Alateen is just \$25.00. There is going to be a separate flyer for special events so if you've already registered please check back for events and pricing which is expected to be put up soon. You can print the flyers and information from the GSSA website.

We are currently working on the menu options and pricing for the banquet which will be included on the special events post with payment mailing instructions.

5. Area Office Reports

**Jim Turner - Alternate Delegate Report
January 2021 Virtual Assembly**

What are Cluster Forums?

Cluster Forums are sharing sessions designed to enhance and widen communication among AA members, service and potential service people, and representatives of the Groups, Districts, and Area. A Cluster Forum is not a formal decision-making body, thus no formal actions come about as a result of a Forum. Rather, Cluster Forums are gatherings that provide a unique opportunity to share valuable experience, ask questions, and spark new ideas. There is no registration fee for Cluster Forums. The expenses are covered by the Districts of each Region and through "passing the basket" at each Forum. The locations and agenda for Cluster Forums are worked out jointly by the DCMs of each Forum. Flyers for each Cluster Forum should be forwarded to the Area Office as soon as possible for listing in the "Georgia Message of AA".

There are four Cluster Forums held each year in different Regions of the state, on a rotating basis. The topics for Cluster Forums have been the General Service Conference Theme for many years. At each September Assembly, the GSRs vote to adopt the Conference Theme for the Georgia State Service Assembly, our Prepaid Convention, and the Cluster Forums.

The 2021 Cluster Forum Theme is "AA in a Time of Change".

Topics under this theme include:

Practicing A.A.'s Spiritual Principles in a Changing World, Recovery in a Changing World, and Service in a Changing World. The 2021 Cluster Forum Regions are Southeast (March), East Central (June), Northwest (August), and District 17 (November). The SE Cluster Forum was canceled by the DCMs of that Region due to COVID-19 restrictions. The East Central Cluster Forum will be hosted by District 8, and the Northwest by District 14D. The Spanish Cluster Forum is hosted by District 17 and is generally held in the Atlanta area.

The Calendar of upcoming events through June 6th is as follows:

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Georgia AA Service Assembly Jan. 15-17 | <i>Virtual</i> |
| Hilton Head Mid-Winter Conf Jan. 29-31 | Hilton Head, SC |
| SE Delegate Get Together Feb. 5-7 | <i>Atlanta (Virtual)</i> |
| Unity Weekend 16C/16D February | <i>Canceled</i> |
| Flint River Roundup March 12-14 | Albany |
| SE Cluster Forum March | <i>Canceled</i> |
| Atlanta Men's Workshop March 19-21 | Rockeagle |
| DCM Pre-Conference Meeting April 3rd | Macon/Centenary |
| 71st General Service Conference April 18-24 | <i>Virtual</i> |
| Marietta Spring Roundup May | Marietta |

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|---|-------------|
| Georgia AA Service Assembly May 14-16 | Dublin/OFTC |
| Girlstock International May | Atlanta |
| 79 th Metro AA Ann. Dinner June | Atlanta |
| XIV Spanish Convention June 5-6 | Atlanta? |

* Please note these events may change over time as the situation with COVID-19 is continually assessed.

The 68th Georgia Prepaid Convention will be held from October 15th –17th, 2021 at the Jekyll Island Convention Center, located at 75 North Beachview Drive, Jekyll Island, GA 31527. Please register online at aageorgia.org. This will be the first Georgia Prepaid Convention since we all gathered in Savannah in 2019, so you won't want to miss it!

Thank you for allowing me to be of service to Area 16! Please feel free to contact me at alt_delegate@aa-georgia.org with any questions.

Secretary Report

Liz W. Area 16 Secretary

A hard copy of the Area Directory has been distributed to your DCM. To access the Directory online, go to aageorgia.org, highlight "Service" and a menu bar will drop down. Click on "Area Service Directory", then click on the folder to enter this password protected area. The password is "Gssa@2006". The online directory is exactly like to hard copy, and it is updated monthly. While we can't meet in person right now, it is still important that we stay connected. Let's keep our Communication moving forward by updating:

GROUP INFORMATION Please remember to keep your group information updated on the website and for the service directory. this can be done on our aageorgia.org website by going to aageorgia.org.

Meeting Guide App Remember when you update your information at aageorgia.org it updates your information on the Meeting Guide App.

DISTRICT MINUTES Remember to email your district minutes to districtminutes@aageorgia.org.

GSSA BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES The minutes from the GSSA Business Meeting will be available online before the 1st of February. This will give you accurate information to take back to your groups and districts.

Chat Box On our aageorgia.org website there is a chat box for any questions you may have concerning Alcoholics Anonymous.

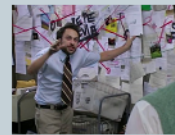
Password The password for our aageorgia.org website is **Gssa@2006**. It is case sensitive.

Treasurer's Report:

Georgia State Service Assembly 2020 Financial Report

PRESENTED BY: KELLY G.
AREA 16 TREASURER

EMAIL: TREASURER@AA-GEORGIA.ORG



AREA 16
GEORGIA STATE SERVICE ASSEMBLY

INCOME REPORTING

| | 2020 Actual | 2020 Budgeted | 2020 Difference | 2021 Budget |
|------------------------|----------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Ordinary Income | \$145,264.12 | \$171,735.67 | (\$26,471.55) | \$178,208.88 |
| Literature | \$58,241.51 | \$110,575.00 | (\$52,333.49) | \$83,807.60 |
| Total Income | \$203,505.56 | \$282,310.67 | (\$78,805.04) | \$262,016.47 |

AREA 16
GEORGIA STATE SERVICE ASSEMBLY

EXPENSE REPORTING

| | 2020 Actual | 2020 Budget | 2020 Difference | 2021 Budget |
|--|----------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Committees (Office & Service) | \$8,446.62 | \$33,060.00 | \$24,613.38 | \$36,478.00 |
| Assembly | \$14,165.13 | \$43,276.44 | \$29,111.31 | \$40,816.80 |
| Operations | \$113,761.86 | \$113,352.18 | (\$409.68) | \$115,321.12 |
| Literature | \$46,041.64 | \$92,612.50 | \$46,570.86 | \$69,862.50 |
| Total Expenses | \$182,415.25 | \$282,301.12 | \$98,885.87 | \$262,478.42 |

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

AREA 16
GEORGIA STATE SERVICE ASSEMBLY

EXPENSES BY COMMITTEE

| | 2020 Actual | 2020 Budget | 2020 Difference | 2021 Budget |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Office Committee | \$1,449.01 | \$10,680.00 | \$9,230.99 | \$9,382.00 |
| PI/CPC | \$132.59 | \$1,890.00 | \$1,757.41 | \$2,110.00 |
| Communications | \$1,955.00 | \$5,930.00 | \$3,975.00 | \$6,736.00 |
| Treatment | \$207.50 | \$3,140.00 | \$2,932.50 | \$3,460.00 |
| Corrections | \$595.76 | \$3,490.00 | \$2,894.24 | \$3,910.00 |
| Archives | \$140.52 | \$2,490.00 | \$2,349.48 | \$3,860.00 |
| Grapevine | \$323.14 | \$1,640.00 | \$1,316.86 | \$2,520.00 |
| Miscellaneous | \$3,643.10 | \$3,800.00 | \$156.90 | \$4,500.00 |

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AREA 16
GEORGIA STATE SERVICE ASSEMBLY

TOTALS

| | 2020 Actual | 2020 Budget | 2020 Difference | 2021 Budget |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Total Income | \$203,505.56 | \$282,310.67 | (\$78,805.04) | \$262,016.47 |
| Total Expenses | \$182,415.25 | \$282,301.12 | \$98,885.87 | \$262,478.42 |
| Difference | \$21,090.31 | \$9.55 | \$20,080.83 | (\$461.95) |

AREA 16
GEORGIA STATE SERVICE ASSEMBLY

PRUDENT RESERVE FUND

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Current Reserve Fund Balance <i>as of 12/31/2020</i> | \$179,566.49 |
| Operating Expenses <i>as of 12/31/2019</i> | \$177,293.80 |

The office committee has voted to continue using 2019 operating expenses as a benchmark for the prudent reserve. The number of months of operating expenses we have in reserve should reflect a normal operating year.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| Months of Operating Expenses | 12 |
|-------------------------------------|----|

AREA 16
GEORGIA STATE SERVICE ASSEMBLY

PREPAID CONVENTION

| | |
|--|--------------|
| 2020 Total Contributions | \$27,050.15 |
| Reserve Fund Balance <i>as of 12/31/2020</i> | \$136,237.33 |
| Number of Conventions per Reserve <i>based on a 3-year rolling average</i> | 3.22 |

3-year rolling average: \$42,324.96
2017, 2018, 2019 - no prepaid convention in 2020

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AREA 16
GEORGIA STATE SERVICE ASSEMBLY

ONLINE CONTRIBUTIONS

Go to www.aageorgia.org and click "Continue" on the top options bar.

Acknowledge that you are an AA member.

Choose the reason you are contributing:

- Jan-May-Sep Assembly
- Myself
- My AA Birthday
- Group
- District/Zone



Enter your name, amount, email and click SUBMIT.

You can pay with a PayPal account, debit or credit card.

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

Old Business

MOTION: I make a motion that page 13 of The Georgia State Service Manual under the heading "Changing the Guidelines in the Georgia AA Service Manual" be amended as follows:

In the event such motion fails to receive a two-thirds majority, a subsequent motion, having the same or similar substance, shall not be allowed for a period of 5 years.

Motion Maker: Brooke G, GSR, Back to Basics Group

Motion Second: Bill H, GSR, As We Recover Group

Ad-Hoc Committee Report:

According to Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised Edition online, there is no moratorium for the reintroduction of a motion that was defeated at a previous business meeting. A Motion to Reconsider a defeated motion must occur during the same business meeting. For us, that would typically occur after a Minority Report by a member of the winning side who wishes to change their vote based on the Minority Report.

At the January 1991 Assembly, a motion to impose a five-year moratorium on the reintroduction of a previously defeated motion was passed and was to be included in a larger body of revisions that were underway for the Georgia State Service Manual. At the January 1992 Assembly, Gay G, our delegate at the time, commented "To make a motion that binds us to anything for 5 years is dangerous, that it closes us out to any kind of change or new information. I [Gay G] called New York and they reaffirmed the danger of this kind of standpoint, that it hushes the minority voice for a period of 5 years; plus, our service manual already makes allowance in that anytime we propose a change, we have to go through three assemblies, which is a year's time." A motion to withdraw the previously passed motion was made and passed.

At the May 2003 Assembly, a motion was made to rewrite the Georgia State Service Manual and an ad hoc committee was formed. The ad hoc committee made two recommendations at the September 2003 Assembly, one of which was a two-year moratorium on the reintroduction of a same or similar previously defeated motion. This motion was discussed and passed by a simple majority, because it was deemed not to be a manual change, but an operations change. However, at the January 2004 Assembly, because there was so much unrest about the motion, mostly procedural regarding the vote, and the feeling that the minority had not been sufficiently heard, time was given for a more sufficient minority report. After additional discussion, a motion to reconsider was made and was passed by a simple majority 168-58. The vote on the motion itself was 136-118-3 which was reported as passed by a simple majority, again because it was deemed not to be a manual change, but an operations change. There was additional discussion and again the Parliamentarian stated that because the original vote in September 2003 was by simple majority, the current vote was also by simple majority.

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Though it was incorrectly reported previously, there is no moratorium on previous motions at the General Service Office or at the General Service Conference.

Our delegate, Debi K, reached out to her 92 fellow delegates in the United States and Canada to inquire as to whether their Areas had any such policy. She received 27 responses, all of which were negative.

Based on our research into the history concerning this motion, there is nothing in Robert's Rule of order regarding the reintroduction of a previously defeated motion; there is no moratorium of previous motions at the General Service Conference; and there are no other Areas that responded to our Delegate's query which have this type of moratorium.

It appears that the Assembly should have been operating under the motion that passed in 2003 and was affirmed in 2004 which imposed a two-year moratorium on the reintroduction of same or similar previously defeated motions, though it appears that we have not. Because the motion was not deemed to be a manual change, a simple majority was all that was needed to pass, and, in fact, no change was made to the manual as a result of the vote. There was much discussion and disagreement on the committee about how the motion was passed and repassed, but it seems that, based on what they thought at the time and the fact that the manual was never changed, that they thought it was a valid passed motion. This information may not have a direct influence on the current motion but may be important in the way our Assembly is run.

Based on this information, the ad hoc committee has unanimously decided that we do not support the motion, the reasons being those brought forth at the January 1992 Assembly-that it is dangerous, that it closes us out to any kind of change or new information, and that it stifles the minority and the group at large. Because of the confusion around the motion passed in September 2003 and reaffirmed in January 2004, we believe the Office Committee needs to further investigate and clarify whether the Assembly should be operating under a two-year moratorium of previously defeated motions. Finally, one option we could consider: The General Service Conference has a procedure called a Motion to Decline to Consider a motion which, if implemented at the Assembly, would provide the Assembly with a way to not consider motions, especially recently defeated motions. More information could be provided, if needed.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Rusty L, DCM 13A-Chair

Brandon L, DCM 7A

Cheryl F, DCM 3D

Daniel L, DCM 16E

DISCUSSION:

Claire P (GSR, I Am Responsible, 8): We actually recently discussed this motion in our last Group Conscience. I am from District 8, "I Am Responsible Group". I agree with the ad-hoc committee's suggestions, and also our home group came up with some different ideas, the same or similar, can the motion be amended or voted on, being "the same or similar" which was address on the discussion from the ad-hoc. We also did agree, as a group, that 5 years appears to be a very long time to shut out something. So, we were suggesting, maybe, 2 to 3, but then also, the motion to decline could also be an option. So, that is just some of the suggestions that we had come up with as a Group, and I wanted to bring that to the floor today.

Rob (GSR, Gratitude Group, 12A): I was just curious, when the guy summarized, he said GSO input on the minority voice, there should be no moratorium, it stifles the minority. And I think he said he reached out to some of the other places and received a negative response. So that last sentence "shall not be allowed for a period of 5 years", isn't that another way of saying that there will be a moratorium for 5 years. My question is if GSO recommended not having a moratorium, why would we not follow GSO's guidance?

Rusty L (Ad-Hoc Committee Chair): Thanks for your question Rob. That's what the motion is. The motion is to have a 5 year, and what we are saying, as an ad-hoc committee, based on the information that we found, and the lack of support for this in the other Areas, in the US and Canada, the fact that this has been addressed at our assembly previously, and while initially passed, subsequently rescinded, we don't believe we should do this. So, we are saying the same thing. The motion wants it. We think we should not have it.

Bill M (GSR, Belmont Breakfast, 13J): I think the last comment clarified things. Without any text in front of me to know what the voting members would be voting for or against. So essentially, this committee is against a 5-year moratorium which was the object of the motion. But are they separately making a recommendation for subsequent action? Is that what is being discussed here?

Rusty: The committee overwhelmingly disagrees with passing the motion based on all the information we provided. In addition, what we tried to do was, because there is some confusion about what happened in 2003/2004 about whether we should be operating under a 2-year moratorium. We asked the Office Committee to investigate further and see if that's true, if it's not true, if it's real or not real. And then we found out that the conference has this motion to decline to consider. So, the way that would work is someone makes a motion, whether it is a recently defeated motion or not, it could be any motion, the motion is seconded, then someone could come to the microphone and say "I make a motion that we decline to consider that motion". That's all they have to say. If they get a second, then it's my understanding, there is an immediate vote, no discussion, there's an immediate vote as to whether we consider the motion or not. And if the "Motion to decline to Consider" passes, then we do not consider the first motion at all. If it fails, then we would proceed to consider the motion that was originally made, whether it is with an ad-hoc committee or not. Rick would know more about when we would assign an ad-hoc committee, or not.

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Bill M: So, the question is about the pending vote of the GSR's, is only about whether to consider the 5-year moratorium, right?

Rick M: Yes. You are absolutely correct.

Hulet W (Alt. GSR, 13F): I just had one question. Is the policy and procedures still under Robert's Rules of Order?

Rick M: So, are you asking if this policy is under Robert's Rules of Order?

Hulet W: Yes.

Rick: No. It is not.

Hulet W: So, what is it under now?

Rick M: It is only a motion to change. It is not part of our policies. At all.

Dick D (GSR, Virus or No Virus, 16B): So, according to the recommendation of the ad-hoc committee, they recommend looking into the "motion to decline", to be clear, that would take a manual change. Right?

Rick M: That is correct.

Harold I (Member, East Cobb Group, 13I): Just to the point of clarification, I was actually on that office committee in 1992, that Rusty was referring to, and the general consensus on that office committee, and by the way, Gay Garner wasn't delegate on that committee, by then she was the office committee chairperson, and the general consensus, we didn't have unanimity on that, that stifling the body was not a good idea, and with this motion to decline, kind of thing, the body itself, meaning the GSR's and assembly, could determine at each assembly whether to take up something or not take up something. But I will tell you there was a little bit of contention on our office committee back then in 1992, but the general consensus on that committee was that it was a bad idea to, as a form, put into the manual a moratorium on any motion. Thanks.

2. Vote - motion made in September 2020 – "Change our Grapevine Committee name to Grapevine/Lavina Committee in line with the 70th GSC Advisory Action".

No Discussion. GSR's voted by Poll.

Those in favor – 150

Those Opposed – 8

Motion Passed.

New Business

Approval – New Area Chairs & Co-chairs

Approve Corrections Committee Chair: David J and Co-Chair: Dawn U.

Approve Treatment Committee Chair: Karen S and Co-Chair: Pearse M.

No discussion. GSR's vote by Poll.

Those in favor – 155

Those Opposed – 1

Approved.

Bid for 2023 Prepaid Convention

Hello Everyone, I am a Grateful Alcoholic, I am honored to serve as the District 12A DCM, my name is Katie Ings.

Today I would like to put in a bid for the 70th Georgia State Prepaid Convention to be held by District 12 A&B.

The Convention will be held on the 3rd weekend of October 2023 at the Beautiful Marriott Hotel and Convention Center in Downtown Augusta, with a space capacity of over 2500. We also have the Ramada Inn, Comfort Inn & Suites, Holiday Inn Express and the Hyatt House in the proximity to the Convention Hall. Hotels run from \$99 to \$139.

August is part of the CSRA, which is the Central Savannah River Area. We have the Riverwalk, just outside the Hotel, where you can sit on a bench and watch the river activity, stroll under shady trees, visit the Augusta Canal National Heritage Center. You can rent a Kayak, Canoe, bicycle, or even 3-seater Jet ski. You can go on Boat tour. Visit the Savannah Rapids Visitors Center.

Augusta has a lot of history, you can visit The Japanese Gardens, The Morris Museum of Art, the Gertrude Herbert Institute of Art and/or the Augusta Museum of History, which by the way is the oldest Museum in Augusta.

We also have the Phinizy Swamp Nature Park, it is an 1100-acre Nature Park. Come stroll along the 14 miles of trails. It is home to Red Shoulder Hawks, Blue Herons, and many smaller birds. There are otters and alligators which you are NOT allowed to feed. There are beautiful gardens and trails to stroll along and you can see all the flora and fauna as you visit the Park.

Go to Strom Thurmond Lake, visit Wildwood Park for \$3.00 a carload. There you can go to the beach, take your boat out for a ride, you can rent a Jet ski for an hour or for the entire day. They also have a Professional Disc Golf course. Also, at the lake you can hike or bicycle on the Bartram trail and they have Horseback rides too. If you are lucky you can see the Osprey that nest at the lake.

Golf? Did someone say GOLF? Bring your clubs and shoes, there are several public Golf courses around the city. In fact, we may even have a golf event on our program. Along with other events we plan on having for you to come to Augusta and enjoy the weekend.

There are over 30 small hometown restaurants here in the Downtown Area, most within walking distance. You can go eat at some of the restaurants, order to go and pick up, or have it delivered to the Hotel.

So, WE invite you to come and stay for the 70th Georgia Prepaid Convention in our beautiful Downtown Augusta, GA in the Fall of 2023.

No other bids were made.

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Discuss Motion from Sept 2003 Assembly: "Office Committee, State Chairperson, along with the DCMs and GSRs abide by this GA State Manual at the Assembly level as it is written (last revised copy). And any motion pertaining to the Manual brought to this Assembly floor and is defeated is not brought to this Assembly floor for two years as done by GSO."

DISCUSSION

Rusty L (DCM, 13A): I noticed on the agenda that you were going to bring this up, and I'm glad that you had the chance to, at least, look at it and try to see if you came to the same conclusions that we did when we listened to the tapes and tried to understand what happened. So, I just thought that I would expand a little bit on this particular item, so I didn't do it during the committee report. I actually spoke with Joycie, a past Delegate who happened to be Parliamentarian at the time and was asked to do the "re-discussion" of it in the January 2004 Assembly. We spent almost an hour on the phone talking about it, because I really wanted to try and understand what they thought, what they talked about, what they concluded and how they ended up with this. The short of it is, she was not a participant in the September (2003) Assembly, so she had to go back and do research on that as well. In her research and her listening to the tapes and looking at the transcripts she determined that their thinking was that this was purely an operations change. That even though, and it is confusing, because it was done in response to a motion to make manual changes, but when the Ad-Hoc Committee presented it they did not present it as a manual change. Which the Ad-Hoc Committee, admittedly, found very confusing. Because the original motion was to change the manual, and the recommendations were not to change the manual, but to do this. That led to our confusion and much discussion for us as well. So, in summation, they decided that because it was not considered a manual change at the time, they voted as a simple majority (in September 2003), they repeated that same process in January (2004), and that is why they came to the conclusion that they did, that it was an operations change, and in her opinion, and in my subsequent opinion, I think, what we determined was, because the manual never got changed, they really thought it was not a manual change. So, if they thought it was a manual change, then it would be in the manual. But it was not a manual change. It was voted on immediately, and that's what happened. So, I hope that clarifies it a little bit.

Roy B (DCM, 16D): I was around at that time, and what it was concerning, my understanding of what it was concerning was, there was a group of people who wanted to change the state manual voting procedures to match what they are in New York. Ours are unique where we do the basket, and NY doesn't to it that way. So, that kept coming up. These people would bring it up every assembly, and the reason that was going on, they wanted to change, that 2-year moratorium was to stifle that. That seemed to be what they were really after. I was going to the assembly and it came up at every assembly, it was argued, it was talked about, and it just got old, and I welcomed the 2-year moratorium. So, that's my understanding of what was going on at the time.

Tom R (GSR, 3rd Tradition, 16D): First of all, Rusty, thank you and the rest of the ad-hoc committee for serving. Rick, my comment is actually a question. If we thought we were supposed to be doing this from 2003 til 2021, and now discovered we were not, is there any reason we would not start doing it now?

Rick M: I will just paraphrase, it is very hard to follow procedures that are not documented in our service manual. Whether that be the AA Service Manual or the Georgia Service Manual. If it is not in our literature, right in front of us, that, to me, is why it was totally overlooked. Given the research that was done on that, and as we heard that there was no such thing as a moratorium at

GSO, which this particular motion was saying. We decided that this was something we needed to take to the body and ask: "how do you want to handle this?". We are just here to help the body, this is a decision to be made by Area 16, as to how they would like to handle this. I hope that answers your question, Tom.

Janet B (GSR, Rowland Street, 13D): My question is, so is this a manual change or not? I can't tell from the discussion, what this discussion is about.

Rick M: Good question. We follow the manual. It is not in the manual, therefore we would say: "Oh, should we put it in the manual?". And when we look at this in its entirety, and the history of it, it has been 18 years, we haven't been following this thing. We are not necessarily clear on the way it was written (it says GSO has this moratorium, and it doesn't) so we brought it back to Area 16 to ask how you would like to handle this. Discuss, and maybe come back with recommendations on how we should handle this. Put in a very simple way, it's something that's been out there and not documented, and we have not been following. What should we do? The office committee only follows what the body asks us to do and so we are putting it back to you, the body.

Janet B: Ok, so it sounds like, if we want to actually follow this, we might need to make a motion to put this in the manual, since in the last 18 years it hasn't been in the manual and hasn't been followed.

Rick M: That is a particular way to handle it. Yes.

Mark G (Area Archives Co-Chair): I have another question about all of this, and it comes from, basically, this: all motions come out of group conscience, which is driven by the groups. If we do this, are we not stifling group conscience, saying that you can't bring this to us? Because if God, as we understand Him, brings this up at a group conscience, and the group feel passionate about it, how can we, as a body that's supposed to be responsible to group conscience, put any of these motions in place? And that's all I've got to say. Thank you.

Dick D (GSR, Virus or No Virus, 16B): It just occurs to me, in that we have a manual to tell us how to do things and be consistent, and if it's not in the manual, then things like this happen. If an operational procedure that was decided on that isn't being followed, hasn't been followed for 18 years, why? Because it's not in the manual that tells us how to operate. So, it seems to me like, whatever the intentions were in 2003/2004, we've lost those, and we just ought to start over again. And I like the "motion to decline" as a better way of handling this than to go back to this old thing. That's all.

Debi K (Delegate): Some good discussion. Some great questions. The office committee spent a lot of time on this, and I just want to reiterate what Rick said, that this was passed, and we haven't been following it. It was passed by a simple majority, not a 2/3's majority, but as far as the people who were involved at that time, they felt that this was a motion that passed. So, what we're looking at is: do we want to pick this up as a practice in our Area? That is something for you to consider. And, if so, how do we want to handle it? That is what we are trying to get some feedback from you folks on. Do we need another motion to do this, on top of the one that the Ad-Hoc committee just reported on? Do we want to just add it to the service manual and start acting on it? Or do we want to say let's drop back and punt, and maybe consider handling this in a different way? What is important to us is that we hear your voice and adhere to what we feel is best for our members in our Area.

Beth S (GSR, Women in the Mirror, 11B): Question, clarification and then a comment. I keep hearing operational vs. manual, and I'd like clarification on that. I'm a new GSR, and if y'all could help

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me and would explain that a little bit, it would help me clarify things in my mind. My second is just a comment. As we've seen in the last 9 months worldwide, not allowing change or discussion of change could have some really devastating effects. Just my two cents worth. Thank you so much, and thank you for your service, everyone.

Rick M: In answer to your question, I would just say that "procedurally" really would be something that might happen in the office committee. We have certain procedures to handle how we respond to emails, etc. When you talk about the Georgia Service Manual, you are really talking about specific to the state of GA in how we operate our Area, as far as procedures go, and in particular, in this case, we are talking about voting, and how the voting takes place. Those are procedures that they wanted to put in there, and that we follow. I, too, did not know the mindset at that time, how they actually defined procedures and the difference operationally. But that, in my mind, is what I had. I hope that answers the question.

Patty L (Parliamentarian): From a procedural standpoint, it seems to me that the Area's group conscience left this assembly assuming this would be a process in place because it met the requirements, at the time, to be passed. And now that we know about it, I think it's our responsibility to follow it, unless this assembly wants to take actions to change it. I do feel like we have a motion that was passed, by our group conscience in 2003 that we just realized we weren't following, that we should be responsible to follow it. That has nothing to do with whether or not I agree with it, it's more to do with just what the next right thing is once we discover something was approved that we didn't know about.

Maryann T (GSR, Meldrum, 5A): I think that we have new information with this "motion to decline" to consider that gives us an opportunity not to wait 2 years. So, I think we have new information, and I just wanted to state that. Thanks.

Daniel L (DCM, 16E): I think the 2/3's majority is very important here, because whenever we are talking about silencing a group, whether it's the minority opinion or a majority opinion, it needs to be a larger group decision. It needs to be a super majority if we are going to silence any kind of group conscience. To say that it wasn't, or never was, or wasn't perceived to be a manual change, is problematic, because we look at it now and know that it's a manual change, it should have been manual change it outlines what motions can and cannot be brought to the floor. So, it was probably improper back in 2003, not to disparage, it was just a misunderstanding. But it's that problem that we should not stifle the group conscience, because people rotate out, people go out, so it's important that we allow discussion to happen. But if we are going to silence people, it needs to be that larger body, it can't just be a simple majority, I think it has to be a larger body. Thanks for letting me share.

Karen A (DCM, 11B): I was thinking of our 5th Concept which states: "Throughout our world service structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered." And I respectfully submit that in this concept we're talking about not just about the right of appeal, but being sure that the entire body is heard, and that the minority opinion is heard. That allows us to function as we do in Alcoholics Anonymous. It would be my opinion, that any change that would limit motions being brought to the table, regardless if it is a manual change, a procedural change or operational change, that if we limit that, this last sentence that the opinion will be heard, that "the petitions for redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered", that that would defeat that particular concept, and that's Concept 5 or our World Service Concepts. Thank you.

Gail M (Alt. DCM, 13D): It seems to me that this motion really is not really even needed. If we followed Robert's Rules, it will take care of itself. Just the fact that someone keeps bringing something up to be discussed is annoying, is not a reason to silence them and not allow them to bring a topic back up if the group wants to bring it back up, if the GSR wants to bring it back up. And I think if we follow Robert's Rules, we will be fine. We don't need this. Thanks.

Joan M (GSR, Chapter 3, 13A): I make a motion that we table this discussion.

Rob S (GSR, District 12): I second this.

Rick ran a Poll to table this discussion and to bring it back to the next assembly.

In favor of tabling discussion to May – 117

Opposed – 23

Rick M: This gives you an opportunity to discuss this with your groups, and we will come back in May and take it up again.

Patty L: I think we are a little out of order by tabling the discussion, only because there is not a motion we are discussing. This motion was already passed. I think it's ok to stop discussion, but let's be clear on what we want the GSR's to discuss with their groups. Again, this motion has already been passed. We probably need to give the GSR's a little direction as to what action they can take, or what they should be discussing in terms of what actions their groups might want to suggest.

Rick M: As Patty has stated, and I firmly believe this also, that no matter what we think, about the motion itself, it's been passed by a body similar to yours. It's now the question of not "is it right or wrong?", they passed it. It's a 2-year moratorium. We do not have it in our manual, and it has not been followed, but I think for the GSR's, it's "what do we do with it at this point?". It's not, do we throw it out, its how do we address this moratorium of 2-years, it's not in our manual, but it has been passed previously. When you are back discussing this with your groups, it's not a motion in front of them to approve or disapprove, it was passed, now what do you want to do with it as a body?

Patty L: The point for the GSR's is that this motion passed with a simple majority, which means that if your groups would like to see it reversed, it would take a simple majority. It is not a manual change to reverse it. I just want to make sure people understand that.

Rick M: As Patty said, it could be that you come back, after discussion, realizing that this is something that is in place but hasn't been followed, with a motion to do something different with this in May, then so be it, that would be what your group would decide. Or you may come back ready to discuss it more. Those are the options that are available to you. Patty will that do it?

Patty L: Yes, I believe so.

General Sharing

Motion Maker: Eugene Mobley (GSR), Usual Suspects Group, 16B

Motion Seconded by: Brad, (GSR), Warner Robbins Young People's Group, 7B

MOTION: "I move that Area 16 (Georgia) implement a "Motion to Decline" procedure every time a motion is made on the Assembly floor that would, if passed, necessitate a policy (Manual) change".

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Recommended changes as follows:

THE GEORGIA AA SERVICE MANUAL

CHANGING GUIDELINES IN

THE GEORGIA A.A. SERVICE MANUAL

Most of the material contained in this manual was taken from the "GSR," "A.A. Traditions," "A.A. Group", and the "Third Legacy Manual" (now the A.A. Service Manual). Using the above as a guide, the members of the Georgia State Assembly, through their deliberations, modified this material to the extent it was satisfactory to their desires and wishes. These modifications are from the minutes of the Georgia Assembly from January 23, 1966 to date.

While updates related to changes in district boundaries, committees and non-policy decisions supported by the will of the Assembly can be updated regularly, any amendments to the Area policy listed in this Service Manual can only be made by the following procedures.

A motion for the change must be made from the floor of the Assembly followed by a second.

The Motion Maker states rationale for it.

Chair shall ask if there is a motion that the Assembly decline to consider the motion (Motion to Decline).

Motion to Decline to consider the motion must be made without comment, must be seconded, and is not debatable.

Motion to decline requires two-third majority vote to pass; there is no Minority Opinion.

No Motion to Decline, Motion to Decline fails, or no second, the motion is then discussed on the Assembly floor.

The motion will be tabled with instructions from the Chairperson to the GSRs to carry it back to their groups for discussion.

The Delegate will also appoint a study committee to review the motion and to bring a report to the next Assembly meeting.

At the 2nd Assembly meeting the Chairperson will ask for the results of the GSRs discussions with their groups and for the findings of the study committee. The Chairperson will ask if there is further discussion from the floor.

The motion will be tabled a second time with instructions from the Chairperson for the DCMs to meet with their GSRs for further discussion and to bring the results of their deliberations to the next Assembly.

At the 3rd Assembly meeting, a vote will be taken requiring a two-third majority of the GSRs present to pass the motion.

Rick M: This is a manual change, which is a 3-assembly process. This is the first assembly. The Delegate will appoint an ad-hoc committee to study this motion and report back to the body at the May 2021 Assembly. Voting will take place in September.

DISCUSSION

Ami S (GSR, Greenhouse, 16C): I just want to verify something that you said earlier when you were going over the protocol, I thought we already had a motion to decline in place that would stop any motion or discussion and immediately call for a vote on the motion to decline. I thought that was already in place.

Rick M: No, there is nothing like that in place.

Rusty L (DCM, 13A): I'd just like to offer an amendment to the motion, adding two words. The proper title is "Motion to Decline to Consider".

Rick M: Can we hold off on that? I think we are amending too quickly. We have to give them some time to explain. I think they purposely came up with that.

Rusty L: A motion to decline is to turn it down. A motion to decline to consider is the proper name of the procedure, that's all I'm saying.

Eugene M (Motion Maker): Our home group, The Usual Suspects, considered this in our group conscience, and passed it overwhelmingly. We then took it to our District 16B meeting and discussed and it passed there overwhelmingly. I have a few notes I'd like to share with you:

Notes:

1. A "Motion to Decline" would empower the body of the Assembly to decide whether or not the motion in question has merit enough to go through the current process of establishing an Ad Hoc Committee and taking three Assemblies to determine the outcome of the original motion.

2. This procedure would be done exactly as it is at the General Service Conference each year with respect to Floor Actions.

3. The motion maker would have two minutes to describe the merits of the motion to change policy (Manual change).

4. A call for a "Motion to Decline" would then be made by the Area Chairperson automatically.

5. A Motion to Decline to consider the motion must be made without comment, must be seconded, and is not debatable.

6. The Motion to Decline requires a two-thirds majority (Substantial Unanimity) to pass; there is no Minority Opinion.

7. If there is no Motion to Decline, the Motion to Decline fails, or there is no second, the original motion is then discussed on the Assembly floor.

Rick M: Going back to Rusty's comment, point of order, Rusty, did you actually make a motion to amend, or did you just mention that?

Rusty L: I wasn't sure if I was supposed to make it a motion or not, but if I need to, I will make a motion to amend the current motion to add the words "to consider" after the word "decline", to follow the procedure name as used at GSO.

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Rick M: Eugene, was it your intention to drop the words "to consider" when you put the motion together? Is there any reason that "to consider", those two words were not put in there?

Patty L: Rusty is a DCM, and I believe we need a GSR to make a motion to amend.

Rick M: Absolutely right. Eugene would you like to respond.

Eugene M: That was an oversight on my part. Rusty is absolutely correct. That is the way it is worded at the General Service Conference, so he is correct.

Janetta M (GSR, Perimeter, 13A): I thought that motion could only be amended by the person who made the original motion.

Rick M: No, I don't think that is true. Patty, once the motion is made and seconded and on the floor, isn't it the body who makes the amendments? And not the original motion maker, is that correct?

Patty L: The body can amend it, but the motion maker can also offer to amend it based on the conversation or discussion.

Joan M (GSR, Chapter 3, 13A): I make the motion to amend the current motion to read "Motion to Decline to Consider".

Brenda H (GSR, Sautee-Nacoochee, 16A): I second that motion.

Rick Launched a majority poll:

Those in favor of amending original motion – 110

Those opposed to amending the motion – 9

AMENDED MOTION: "I move that Area 16 (Georgia) implement a "Motion to Decline to Consider" procedure every time a motion is made on the Assembly floor that would, if passed, necessitate a policy (Manual) change".

Back to DISCUSSION....

Doug H (DCM, 1A): I just have a clarification here now, if this is passed, is that when a motion for a policy/manual change is brought before the assembly would the assembly chair ask to see if there is a motion to decline, or is this letting us know that it is part of Robert's Rules and we can do it? I'm not clear on what we are asking to be done.

Rick M: It would be done exactly as it is done at the General Service Conference each year: (From the motion makers notes):

3. The motion maker would have two minutes to describe the merits of the motion to change policy (Manual change).

4. A call for a "Motion to Decline" would then be made by the Area Chairperson automatically.

Our Delegate will create an Ad-Hoc committee to look

into this motion. You will get a report in May by the Ad-Hoc Committee, and the final vote will take place in September. That is the procedure, right out of our manual.

FLOOR OPENED BACK UP FOR GENERAL SHARING

Rusty L (DCM, 13A): This question is for our Delegate, and it regards the GSO Financial slide that you put up. You reported a total between contributions and literature of \$17.5 Million in income, but you only reported \$15 something Million dollars in expenses, and your third bullet point said that we had a deficit of 200 and something thousand dollars. What happened to the 2 something Million dollars in excess? Does that include the \$1 Million that they drew down? The numbers don't add up.

Rick M: I think I could answer that Debi if you want. I think the reporting that Debi was giving was as of November, but Debi, you can go ahead and correct me on that if you want.

Debi K (Delegate): It is not the final report. Actually, that came out in the highlights from GSO that was done on December 11th, so we don't have the totals. The report at the end of the year will reflect some of that draw down money, but also, we got some funding from the insurance policy from the International Convention. So, the next time I report, I'll have the final "end of year" balances.

Katie I (DCM, 12A): I forgot one thing, I did read in the manual after you read what it says, and one thing I did forget was the capacity. And the convention hall holds more than 2500 people, so we will have plenty of room at the convention to serve for the 70th Prepaid Convention. I just wanted to add that. And thank goodness for zoom, could you imagine how long it would take us if we were voting by hand?

Tom R (GSR, 16D): I'm not sure if this question if for Rick or for Patty, our parliamentarian. I heard reference, several times, to Robert's Rules of Order. We follow the GA State Service Manual which is not directly related to Robert's Rules of Order. Am I correct that we need to be looking at the Service Manual, because we do not directly follow Robert's Rules?

Rick M: You are right, Tom, we don't. We actually produce a document that normally, in the physical assemblies, we have handed out to everybody. It was produced by us to inform people on how the assembly operates, and the very first paragraph of that document that we always give out says that we follow Robert's Rules loosely and as it applies to our Area.

Randy (GSR, No Name Nooners, 11B): My question was, a while back when Debi was given their reports, Liz said that she was going to email the area service assembly guide/directory to the DCM's. I was wondering if she was going to mail those out or email them?

Debi K: Are you talking about the Service Manual or the Area Directory?

Randy: The Area Directory.

Debi K: That went out. Our Office Manager, Tamera and Fran sent that out. If we have your correct address, you should have received it, if you are a DCM. We only sent it to the

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DCM's. We sent one copy, otherwise it is available on aageorgia.org.

Rusty: Sorry for asking so many questions, but this is for Debi. In your presentation you made a reference to something called Google Grants. And my question is, is that a financial grant? Is that money coming to AA from an outside entity? It seems like this has been mentioned before in the assembly. Maybe you mentioned it previously, but I am concerned that we would not be self-supporting if we were to accept money from Google Grants. Just curious.

Debi K: We are not receiving cash or money. It is an in-kind contribution for services, but a lot of our members were concerned about that in light of our 7th Tradition. So that is why they had a sub-committee to study this and report back. Because it seems like public service announcements and airtime for that, access to certain platforms. It does add up to quite a bit when you do add up the monetary amount, and we also needed a mechanism on how to report that back to the members. So, this sub-committee from the Trustees is researching it and they will have a report in January. It is not actual cash, but it does have a monetary value. And that's why there was some concern about the 7th Tradition.

Patrick G (GSR, Happy Hour, 10A): I'm a first time GSR, and I'd like to know where I can go and get some info on what Robert's Rules of Order are. I have no idea what that's about.

Rick M: You can google that, and there is lots of documentation on it. The most updated copy of Robert's Rules is like an 800-page manual. If you need something to put you to sleep, you can read that. There is also a quick reference guide available at bookstores. The quick reference guide will give you some good information that is pertinent to what we are doing. But if you'd like more details, definitely the manual. They are up to like the 4th edition already.

Micah (Area PI/CPC Chair): Debi did a great job explaining it. I just wanted to elaborate on what I think I heard Rusty asking. We get a lot of questions for it in our workshop also. The Google Ad Grants first dropped down via conference material, probably about two years ago when we started prepping for that. And the biggest, clearest example is that it is a service that typically is monetized for people other than non-profits. So, it has a monetary value, but it was something that was awarded to us as a non-profit that AA could participate in. The biggest example was to put people in a higher priority for a google search. If people are googling Alcoholics Anonymous, if we were granted the service ability to put it higher on the search, we would be more easily accessible. People who are not non-profits usually have to pay for that kind of advancement. And now it's available through these Google Ad Grants. There is no money in exchange. It is just a service that is typically offered to the public and they have to exchange value for it, but non-profits can get Google Ad Grants, and it's just a better way to help us be visible from a Public Information aspect, when people are searching for us. If you want more content on that I can send you the PowerPoint. Just email me in the chat.

Ernie M (Area Office Committee Chair): Just a point, when we were talking on that motion in reference to the two-year moratorium, my second year as Assembly Chair, the question came up, and I brought that point up as assembly chair that it hadn't been two years since a motion had been brought up considering electronic voting. In discussion on the floor, we found it had been over two years, so the motion did come up, so it has been brought up in the past. Thank you.

Thomas C (GSR): I'm following up on the in-kind contributions, service level contributions, as opposed to direct money. Is the contributor allowed to deduct that from their taxes? Are they allowed to deflect what they would normally charge somebody from their taxes, thereby giving them an incentive to do such a thing? And should we be considering that as to whether or not that does conflict with our 7th Tradition?

Debi K: You guys are asking great questions. And they all came up at conference with the committee work, the PI Committee worked on this at the General Service Conference. To answer your question, I do not know if Google gets a tax break, but I do know that we have to report it, and they are reporting it on a 990-tax form, so there is some reporting on our end. But I can't answer whether or not Google is getting tax incentives to do this kind of work for non-profits. I imagine that will come out of the ad-hoc committee, and we'll have that information at the next conference, because this will be back on the agenda for the Public Information Committee.

Roy B (DCM, 16D): In your discussion at your group conscience meeting, on the topic of the manual changes and the moratorium, I would just give you the other side, so that you can look at it from both ways. Let's say, you got your motion passed, and then I decided I wanted to change that, and I brought it up at the assembly, took up the assembly time, made everybody vote on it, and then it didn't go my way, so I brought it up again, and made everybody talk about it, vote on it, and then I brought it up again... That's where this came from. That's what was going on. So, if you could just put yourself on the other side of that, then maybe you could have a better discussion at your group conscience level.

Adjourn with Responsibility Statement

Motion to adjourn made by Clair GSR and seconded by several others.

Meeting closed at 1:49pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Liz W

Area Secretary

Birthday Contributions

District 1 Zone A

Cairo Group

Doug H - September 20, 2014

Sharon H - September 20, 2014

District 7, Zone A

Happy Hour Group

Gladys H - December 24, 1990

The Surrender Group

Dianne M - January 1, 1990

District 10, Zone D

Madras Group

David J - November 19, 2000

Turin Lost & Found Group

Trish R - November 11, 2017

District 11, Zone B

Twelve Step Sister Group

Group Anniversary - November 2, 2000

District 13, Zone A

Clean Air Group

Bill M - December 15, 1993

District 13, Zone D

Stephen S - December 16, 2009

District 14, Zone B

Easy Does It, But Do It Group

Don P - January 1, 2005

District 16, Zone C

Kathryn W - November 8, 1996

District 16, Zone E

Cumming Group

Janie C - December 28, 2002

Fresh Air Group

Jamieson A - March 27, 2015

New Groups

District 10, Zone A

Virtual Big Book Study Group

ZOOM

Fayetteville, GA

Tuesday & Thursday 8:00 p.m. Open Big Book

District 10, Zone E

Ascension Group

ZOOM

Carrollton, GA

Sunday 9:30 a.m. Open Discussion Step Study

District 11, Zone B

Women In the Mirror Group

ZOOM

Conyers, GA

Wednesday 6:00 p.m. Closed

& Saturday 10:00 a.m. Closed

District 13 Zone B

T.G.I.F. Group

ZOOM

Atlanta, GA

Friday 8:00 a.m. Open Discussion

Gottatalk Group

ZOOM

Atlanta, GA

Wednesday 8:00 p.m.

District 13, Zone K

Awakening Group

Sanctuary

700 Mars Hill Road NW

Kennesaw, GA 30152

Monday 7:00 p.m. Open Discussion LGBTQ

District 17

Segunda Tradicion Group

5705 Mulberry Street

Austell, GA 30106

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 8:00 p.m.