

DELEGATE / delegate@aageorgia.org

Confidential for members
March/April 2022
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Going Beyond Fear
By Traci M.
Area 16 Delegate

I hope that everyone's New Year is getting off to a good start. Our January 2022 Assembly was well-attended, and our Trusted Servants were ready to continue the great work that our Service Committees have been doing. Our new GSRs were able to be with our Past Delegate, Rebecca T., for the GSR Workshop. Tom H., our Southeastern Regional Trustee, conducted DCM 101 and provided DCMs with the opportunity to get on board with The Fellowship Connection, a great tool to provide information about membership, groups, service positions, and much more. Sunday morning, I was able to address the Assembly Body at our Business Meeting as your Area 16 Panel 72 Delegate, an honor and a privilege.

Going Beyond Fear is one of the workshop topics of our theme for the 2022 General Service Conference, "AA Comes of Age 2.0: Unified in Love and Service". We have been through a lot of changes over the last few years. Our members have pulled together and continued to carry the message to the next suffering

alcoholic both virtually and in person.

Our Ninth Tradition states: AA, as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve. I hope that we do not let fear hold us back from participating on virtual platforms or in person. How we move forward will depend on how willing we are.

Our Big Book states, in "There is a Solution" that "Most of us sense that real tolerance of other people's shortcomings and viewpoints and a respect for their opinions are attitudes which make us more useful to others. Our very lives, as ex-problem drinkers, depend upon our constant thought of others and how we may help meet their needs." How I feel, what I think, and what I want is not the point. How can I be helpful? What am I bringing to the table? Am I willing to make compromises? These are First Tradition questions for every one of us. Can I tell you a secret? We all think we are right. At the end of the day, we all have to decide if we are willing to work together for the people that haven't had the privilege we are enjoying today.

Bill W. in his essay, "Leadership in AA:

Ever a Vital Need," says in part; "*Compromise comes hard to us "all-or-nothing" drunks. Nevertheless, we must never lose sight of the fact that progress is nearly always characterized by a series of improving compromises.*"

I am passionate about the work that we do in Alcoholics Anonymous. We are not fragile flowers. We can and will bring hope to as many still suffering alcoholics as we can reach, anywhere and anyhow.

"Therefore, no society of men and women ever had a more urgent need for continuous effectiveness and permanent unity. We alcoholics see that we must work together and hang together, else most of us will finally die alone. — Alcoholics Anonymous, page 561

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ALTERNATE DELEGATE / altdelegate@aageorgia.org

Communication is Vital!
By Tom B.
Area 16 Alternate Delegate

Communication is necessary within our Fellowship if we are to carry the message of AA to the suffering alcoholic. Our primary purpose, "to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety," is dependent on when and how we communicate. Our ability to share information between our members, groups, Districts, committees, Areas, and GSO, is vital to the survival of Alcoholics Anonymous. I'm sure all agree that we want AA to be here for the next individual in need of our experience, strength, and hope. Bill W. said in his 1960 General Service Conference talk, AA in an Era of Change: "When you think about it, AA is a unique means of communication: our lives have depended on communication; our unity depends on communication; our function depends on communication."

Where do you get your information about AA and our Fellowship from? Do you rely

on members, committees, group or District business meetings, literature, Area Assemblies, or GSO? What information piques your interest and what do you concentrate on? What do you pass along to others? In which areas of service are you involved? We must ask ourselves these questions if we want AA to continue to thrive. All types of information are floating around AA – the message of AA, events happening in AA, service opportunities, committee activities, workshops, social gatherings, groups and District business meeting discussions, conference agenda items, and Assembly focus. All these areas provide an important part to our Fellowship and how we carry the message. This information flows between us through different avenues.

One avenue of communication that I would like to highlight is Area 16's DCM Outreach Program. This initiative was born out of the "Our Voice Matters" exercise. The first DCM Outreach Committee was formed and began discussing communication strategies in 2021. It is a committee

made up of seven DCMs, each representing one of the Area 16 regions and District 17. There are four objectives of the DCM Outreach Program: 1) reach out to "dark" districts, 2) reach out to new DCMs, 3) provide guidance for Cluster Forums, and 4) strengthen our service structure overall by increasing involvement and participation. There are seven DCMs who make up the 2022 DCM Outreach Committee:

Southwest region-
Doug H., district1a@aageorgia.org
Southeast region-
Becky S., district5c@aageorgia.org
West Central region-
Mike C., district10d@aageorgia.org
East Central region-
Wanda P., district8@aageorgia.org
Northwest region-
Cathy K., district15a@aageorgia.org
Northeast region-
Don P., district11a@aageorgia.org
District 13 region-
Rusty L., district13a@aageorgia.org
The District 13 region is reaching out to District 17. These DCMs will be contacting

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TREASURER / treasurer@ageorgia.org

A Year in Review By Kelly G. Area 16 Treasurer

The office committee reported that our January Assembly was a great success at the new location. I am so disappointed that I was not able to be there with all of you after a year of waiting to be in person! However, I'm excited to join you in May in Dublin.

Our finances in 2021, as reported at the January Assembly, were strong. Our total ordinary income was \$238,208.45. We budgeted to receive \$262,016.47 or \$23,808.03 more income for the year; the shortfall is due to lower literature sales. Our total expenses were \$212,561.19. We budgeted to spend \$262,478.42, \$49,917.23 more. The decline in expenses was due to no in-person meetings or events. Overall, we netted \$25,655.27 for the year. I would like to thank all of you:

the members, groups and Districts committed to supporting GSSA in providing services that help alcoholics.

Our prudent reserve is currently almost 12½ months of operating expenses, which is slightly above our goal. The Prepaid Convention account remains at a good level as well. We have enough funds to cover the cost of four state conventions. We had an increase in the amount within the account after Jekyll Island's convention center refund was received. As the planning for the next Prepaid begins, we should see the amount in the account start to decline. Our contributions continue to remain steady.

If you have any questions about the financial standing of GSSA, please do not hesitate to reach out to me via email at treasurer@ageorgia.org

Thank you for letting me be of service.

SECRETARY / secretary@ageorgia.org

Great Time to be Sober By Liz W. Area 16 Secretary

What a great time to be sober! Spring is in the air and events are starting to pop up in person again. We just had our first Assembly in Dublin, and it was wonderful to see everybody. I felt like we had a great turnout, considering the times we are in. There were 270 registered for the event. Many of those were at their very first Assembly. It was so exciting to see. The DCM meeting was well-represented, and we had a great crowd at the Saturday night speaker meeting. It almost felt "normal." We are revving up to head down to Cairo for the first Cluster Forum of 2022. Looking forward to fun and Fellowship. There are a group of us headed down there together for the event. It has been a long time since a bunch of us piled up in the car and headed out to do something with and for AA. Too long!

I remember the days when my sponsor just used to say, this is where we are going, and there were no questions asked. I just went. It didn't matter where she was taking me, I knew I was going to stay sober doing it, and I'd probably have a whole lot of fun to boot.

I am grateful that I grew up in a time in

AA when my sponsor took me places and showed me how things work. It was important to me that I have someone answer all the burning questions surrounding the Traditions and the Concepts. All that seemed like "advanced AA" to me. How do we conduct business? What are Robert's Rules of Order? Why do we use them? I thought there were no rules! Why do we have a Georgia Service Manual? Isn't the World Service Manual good enough? How do I get involved? What should I do first? Why can't we accept a donation from Krispy Kreme Donuts for our New Year's Eve Party? What does Inter-group do? How does a Prepaid Convention work?

Yes, this was me. And I can honestly say, that was just the beginning. As long as I keep asking questions and remain teachable in Alcoholics Anonymous, the adventure will continue. If you have questions like these, or others, grab on to someone headed to the next Cluster Forum, or Area Assembly. I promise you will not be the only person there for the first time. But be careful, you might catch the Service Bug, and if that happens, you will be in for the greatest ride of your life!

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:	100 %

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 ageorgia.org*

GRAPEVINE La Viña / grapevine@aageorgia.org

Be a Part of Grapevine's Audio Project

Mark J., Chair

Mitch M., Co-Chair

Area 16 Grapevine / La Viña Committee

AA Grapevine is collecting up to seven-minute-long stories from the Fellowship in the form of audio recordings. Share as you would in a meeting — or pick a topic of your choosing, from making amends to working a particular Step.

If your audio story is accepted by the AA Grapevine editorial staff, Grapevine will publish it in the form of a YouTube playlist or on another media platform.

Notes

Grapevine does not collect recordings from speakers at AA meetings.

Audio stories should be roughly seven minutes in length.

Two Ways to Share Your Audio Story The Audio Project Voicemail System

1) Call the voicemail system at 559-726-1216.

2) Press 1 to hear helpful tips and to begin recording your story after the tone.

3) When you are finished recording, Press #, then you will be prompted to Press 1 to save your story.

4) After that, Press 2 to give AA Grapevine permission to use your story.

Do It Yourself

1) Use your own digital recorder, smartphone or other mobile devices. (WAV and MP3 files will be accepted.)

2) Send your recording to the email address webcoord@aagrapevine.org

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

PICPC / picpc@aageorgia.org

Maintaining Contact

By William B., Chair

Karen A., Co-Chair

**Area 16 Public Information/
Cooperation With the Professional
Community Committee**

We want to welcome all Group Representatives, District Representatives and all who want to learn about PICPC in Area 16.

One of our goals for the coming year is to continue to carry the AA message to our regular places, as well as to some of the not-so-familiar places, such as getting our pamphlets and literature to community centers and senior living facilities. The pamphlets "Is AA for You, 12 Questions Only You Can Answer" and "AA at A Glance" are always a good start. These pamphlets and others are available at your local Intergroup Office. If you do not have an Intergroup Office in your area, you can google aa.org, call to be connected with the PC Department, and leave a message.

Many contacts can start with a phone call

or email. You can make a call to your local library and ask if they have a copy "Alcoholic Anonymous." If they do not, you may want to check with your DCM to see if your District would like to donate a copy. We also want to connect with more colleges and universities. We will be drafting a sample letter that will be available to send to them. If your contact leads to in-person meetings, members of AA should follow the safety guidelines of the facilities we enter.

AA has a rich history. I heard someone say the best way to prepare for one's future is to know your past. We hope our literature, group conscience, and a Loving God will be our guide.



Alternate Delegate

Continued from Page 1

the DCMs in their respective regions to see what is needed to help fulfill Area 16's communication structure.

Anyone, including a member-at-large, a GSR, or a DCM, can contact the DCMs listed above for help with communication and guidance. Please avail yourself of this resource. These seven DCMs have made a commitment to serve our Fellowship and service structure in an additional capacity to their regular DCM responsibilities. They are passionate about Area 16 and its ability to carry the message. I would like to thank these seven DCMs on behalf of the Fellowship for their dedication and time.

Birthday Contributions

District Unknown

Ginger G – January 29, 1992

District 6

Moon Road Group

Stan M – February 4, 2002

District 7 Zone A

Primary Purpose Group

Micah G – December 6, 2011

District 10 Zone D

Turin Lost & Found Group

Trish R – November 11, 2017

District 11 Zone A

Blue Chips Group

Allison B – December 5, 2005

Walton County Group

Jocelyn B – January 1, 2010

District 16 Zone B

Breakfast Club Group

Damon E – August 10, 2004

District 16 Zone E

Cumming Group

Janie C – December 28, 2002

ARCHIVES/ archives@aageorgia.org

Archives Can Carry Our Message

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

It sure was great to see everyone in Dublin. Thanks to all that attended our evening presentation. Drew did a great job presenting the life of Sister Ignatius. If you were unable to attend, it is available for viewing on aageorgia.org. The presentations on Bill, Dr. Bob and Dr. Silkworth are also available there.

Our vision for the coming year is "How Archives Can be Used to Carry

Our Message." My sponsor has always said, "If you are going to join anything it is important to know where it came from." Personally, till I became interested in our history I didn't grasp the enormity of what I had joined. In learning the history of AA, I began to see how the hand of God had guided our journey. The seemingly insurmountable problems we faced earlier shaped us to who we are today.

If you would like to be kept abreast of what is happening in Archives, send an email to archives.

Till we trudge the road of happy destiny again.

COMMUNICATIONS

communications@aageorgia.org

Help Wanted: (Another Growth Opportunity)

By Janie C., Chair,
Jaki T., Co-Chair
Area 16 Communications Committee

Se necesita traductores de escritura!

(Written Spanish translators needed!)

One of the many ways that the Communications Committee helps to carry the message in Area 16 is through **Spanish translation**. Paula M. sets up to help us at Assemblies, the Prepaid, and sometimes other events to provide spoken translation to our Spanish-speaking members via headsets. I have benefited from this wonderful service as an English speaker in the past when translation was provided from Spanish to English during a Spanish Convention!

However, we could use some help with **written translation**. In addition to translating our Assembly agenda into Spanish for attendees, we have also been able to provide Spanish translation for the entire Georgia Message in past years. It would be wonderful to resurrect this for our Spanish-speaking members, but this is really a team effort. If you or any member you know is willing to translate portions of the Georgia Message into Spanish, please let me know at

communications@aageorgia.org.

Thank you as always for helping us to carry the message in Area 16.

CORRECTIONS / corrections@aageorgia.org

New Activities for Corrections

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

It was wonderful to see everyone at Assembly! There is so much to learn in a chance meeting or over a cup of coffee. We are looking forward to seeing you soon.

Our Saturday morning Corrections session reviewed recent developments and some new activities. More in a moment. Our Saturday evening workshop was a review of the Georgia Department of Corrections Volunteer Badge process. I will say the 12-page application will take a while to complete!

The Corrections Committee is looking at two new activities. First, we have noticed a lack of materials for someone who might come to an

AA meeting fully expecting to later go to jail or prison. We are looking at a pamphlet available at our Groups along the lines of 'Working the 12 Steps in Prison or Jail' or 'How to Continue Your AA Program in Prison or Jail.'

Another activity would be a training program for Wardens, Chaplains, and Counselors. For jails and prisons, AA is often lumped into the church group category. Our hope with the training program is to make prison and jail officials better aware of AA and thus, hopefully, more supportive of activities in their facility.

Speaking of facilities, John R. of the Swainsboro Group has a meeting lead for the Emanuel Women's Facility. If you live near Swainsboro, the ladies could certainly benefit from your AA experience. Contact the Macon office to volunteer.

New Groups

District 10 Zone C

West End Group
West End Baptist Church
102 Bulloch Ave
Manchester GA 31816
Saturday 7:30 a.m. Open

District 11 Zone B

Speak Easy Group
ZOOM - Rockdale
Saturday Women's Closed Big Book

Treatment /Accessibilities

treatment@aageorgia.org

Let's Get Involved By Karen S., Chair, Don K., Co-Chair, Area 16 Treatment / Accessibilities Committee

It was great to see so many people at the Assembly. The two workshops that our committee hosted were very well-attended. Thanks to all.

Most of the facilities that we are carrying the message to have been on lockdown once again. Let's not take this as a sign that there is no work to do. Please continue to communicate with and provide AA services such as literature, pamphlets, virtual meetings, contacts, or any other resources that may be available. We would also like to encourage all to watch the video HOPE. It is a great tool to bring into

rehab facilities. It can be viewed on YouTube or on aa.org. HOPE is a 17-minute video that explains what AA is and is not, AA's primary purpose, sponsorship, the Steps and Traditions, and other basic principles of the AA program. Please remember that if we do not keep in contact with our facilities that when things open back up, we may not be invited back to carry AA's life-saving message.

For the last couple of years, we have been watching AA evolve and become more accessible to the person who needs or wants to stay home. We must remember that AA's face many different challenges and whatever it may be: "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."

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.

25th Flint River Round-Up	Dublin/OFTC	March 10-13
DCM Pre-Conference Meeting	Macon	April 2 11:00am - 3:00pm
Atlanta Intergroup	Atlanta	April 3
72nd General Service Conference	Brooklyn, NY	April 24-30
Taco Bout Service	Centerville	April 30
Atlanta Intergroup	Atlanta	May 1
Marietta Spring Round-Up	Marietta	May 6-8

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

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

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Georgia State Service Assembly Business Meeting Minutes Sunday January 16, 2022 Pending Approval at the May 2022 BUSINESS MEETING

CALL TO ORDER/SERENITY PRAYER

Rick M., Area 16 Chairperson
Delegate's Sharing: Tracy M.
Good Morning

It is so wonderful to be here with a room full of Trusted Servants at our first face to face Assembly since January 2020. I am honored to be able to serve as your Panel 72 Area 16 Delegate. I would like to welcome everyone that is able to be with us this morning. How many folks do we have that are here for their first Assembly? I want to give a special welcome to all our new GSRs and DCMs. I am so grateful that you are here today.

We go to great lengths to be available and show up where we are needed. We carefully plan our yearly Budgets for our Area Service Committees so that we can go out to the Prisons, Treatment Centers, Military Bases, and Hospitals. We have also gotten much better at providing information on a virtual format. I am grateful for the technology we have available to us today. We will continue to move forward taking advantage of technology, and also suiting up and showing up in person, for the next suffering alcoholic whenever possible.

The service work we do in Alcoholics Anonymous is about more much more than a location. Being willing to be a Trusted Servant has a commitment of time and sacrifice that comes with it. There are benefits to being in a room where our energy and enthusiasm can be experienced. When we look at what it cost to travel and meet, I hope we always consider how valuable the Fellowship of the Spirit truly is.

I remember the first time I came to Assembly in Macon. I'd heard about Assembly in my home group's Business Meeting, and they encouraged me to attend. I was about 6 months sober and already sponsoring women and taking them through the steps. I came to the Saturday night Speaker meeting and Charlie Y. from Savannah was telling his story. There were hundreds of AA members laughing and enjoying being together. The energy in that room was amazing. I knew I wanted to be of service even though I still had a lot of fear.

Since our last Assembly

We have had the opportunity to see that we can adapt to whatever means necessary to get the work of Alcoholics Anonymous done. Area 16 held the first Virtual Prepaid Convention in October.

The 2021 Prepaid Committee, faced with the challenges of converting to a virtual format, stepped up and along with our Web Committee and Communications Committee met those challenges. The speakers were amazing, and the workshops and other events made for a full program. The 68th GA Prepaid Chair will give their Final Report later this morning.

We look forward to the 69th Prepaid Convention in Dublin in October. You can register at their table here at Assembly or online at aageorgia.org.

The DCM Planning Meeting was held virtually in November.

The DCM's approved the Budget for 2022. Committee assignments were given for Pre-Conference in April.

We welcomed our new Area Service Committee

Chairs/Co-Chairs. You will have a chance to approve them a little later this morning.

Rotating out were Chuck H., Micah G., and Mike S. Our Area has been so fortunate to have them serve.

I want to remind everyone that in May at our Assembly we will be taking Nominations for Secretary and Treasurer for Area 16.

Today, I am grateful to get out and be with the Fellowship! Suiting up and showing up today is a privilege. The connection we have when we are together in person is powerful.

District 17's Cluster Forum was the first face to face AA event that I attended as Incoming Delegate and it was a celebration. I saw gratitude for recovery and dedication to service in District 17's presentations and our Area Service Committees' presentations as well.

GSO

Our General Service Office began returning to the office in October.

The GSO staff is hard at work and things are beginning to return to normal.

I am learning more about the volume of correspondence and work that is done through our General Service Office.

I attended a meeting with our Southeastern Trustee Tom H. and other Delegates and Alternate Delegates.

Bob W., General Manager and Carolyn W. NTD on AAWS, each gave presentations and answered our questions directly.

Bob W. shared about the focus on improving "Service Standards," regarding response times on emails and phone calls and service training.

Some of the topics addressed were:

Plain Language Big Book
New Service Material -- "Safety and AA" flyer
Current Financials

As a new Delegate, I am so grateful to Tom H. our Southeastern Regional Trustee for his support.

Treatment/Accessibilities Committee

As your Delegate, I have been assigned to the [Treatment/Accessibilities Committee](#). Our Conference Committee has met, and we are looking forward to serving together.

Our Agenda Items for Conference (tentatively) are:

Treatment and Accessibilities

- Review progress report on pamphlet "A.A. for the Older Alcoholic."
- Review progress report on pamphlet of "For Professionals : Bridging the Gap to Help Alcoholic."
- Review progress report on military audio interviews.
- Review contents and format of Treatment Kit and Workbook.
- Review content and format of Accessibilities Kit and Workbook.

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New PO Box for Contributions

A separate post office box has been established for Seventh Tradition contributions:
GSO
Post Office Box 2407
James A Farley Station
New York, NY 10116-2407

You may also make your Contributions online at

www.aa.org

This change will enable us to process contributions much more efficiently and at a significant savings to the Fellowship.

To be clear, only contributions go to the new box. All other Correspondence will still go to PO Box 459

Box 4-5-9 Winter 2021

This issue highlights important AA events, both in the U.S./Canada and around the world. The issue also reports on some developments at GSO that will help AA members in custody and AA members on the outside to connect more quickly and to share experience, strength, and hope through correspondence.

Highlights from A.A.W.S

The AA World Services Board met on Friday, December 3rd, 2021, at the General Service Office in New York, with a video-conference/in-person hybrid meeting.

General Manager's Report

The general manager noted the recent Employee Recognition virtual event and the milestone anniversaries of employees celebrated for 5, 10, 15, 20 years of employment at GSO, remarking that their dedication to the mission of Alcoholics Anonymous is unparalleled.

The ongoing efforts to infuse AA principles into the daily life and operations of our office continue. The first in-house GSO 1728 meeting will be held on Friday, December 10. It will be held virtually and continue to be held on the second Friday of every month.

Archives

- From January through October, the Archives staff responded to approximately 605 inquiries. Staff is currently aiding two International AA entities with their research inquiries. Italy has reached out to us for information about the start of AA in Milan and Japan has contacted us for materials on the history of AA in that country for their archives. These are extensive and time-consuming projects. Approximately 20 cubic feet of unprocessed materials from past International Conventions were brought into the archives for future processing. The archivist participated at the 65th Ohio State Convention, held on August 20–22, 2021. The theme of the Convention was “Our Great Responsibility,” which was the topic of the Archives presentation.

Operations

- Fellowship Connection Release 3.0 launched in October with:
 - New, user-friendly Dashboard
 - Ability to automatically provide end dates to outgoing position holders
 - Ability for area registrars to see when the service kits were ordered

- Ability to choose to receive digital or physical kits or to opt out of receiving any kits. The last phase of Release 3.0 is to provide area registrars the option to bulk upload information to Fellowship Connection.

• **Technology/Communications/Services**

Website – The newly updated Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) website www.aa.org has launched.

GSO coordinates many services that help groups and members fulfill their purpose of carrying the AA message to the alcoholic who still suffers, and aa.org plays an important role in that work. Among the many benefits of our new website, it will serve as a significant resource for AA members, those seeking help from AA, professionals working with alcoholics, the media, and the public at large. Above all, it will provide consistent information about Alcoholics Anonymous.

Progress report on Meeting Guide App: The App team launched the third major application upgrade since App development was handed over to Foster Made. The App team has received positive feedback regarding this latest release, which included features requested by our users and entities, as well as code updates.

Conference

The Equitable Distribution of Workload (EDW) process has overwhelmed the Conference assignment. By September 15, the Conference desk received 178 proposed agenda items forms, some on the same items, which were all processed and forwarded to the appropriate committee/board for the fourth quarter General Service Board weekend. The first Conference planning meeting was held November 10.

Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment

With the opening of events in the coming year, the C.P.C. coordinator put together a list including past events where we have exhibited and outlining upcoming opportunities to determine where we can be a presence in carrying information about AA to professionals. This list was reviewed by the trustees' C.P.C. Committee at their meeting October 31. The C.P.C. coordinator looks forward to working with local area C.P.C. committee chairs to volunteer for these events.

Corrections – The new Corrections Correspondence System (C.C.S.) launched in September 2021. The new C.C.S. provides an expedient process whereby we can match volunteers and persons in custody automatically, obtain statistics and reports, and generate personalized letters that can be sent via email to outside AA members and via postal mail to persons in custody. Since the launch, 267 were paired that for a myriad of reasons had been sitting in the old system. Phase Two will focus on added features and increased functionality.

Group Services – the Group Services coordinator and Online Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous. The vision moving forward is

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continued support with each other in making Twelfth Step work possible. Group Services is working with management to finalize the plan for the 2021 Virtual Day of Sharing with at least ten other Twelve Step organizations.

Literature

A few of the preliminary Agenda Items for Literature are:

- Review draft language regarding safety and AA to be included in *Living Sober* and “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship.”
- Review progress report regarding development of a Fourth Edition of the book “*Alcohólicos Anónimos*” (Spanish)
- Review progress report regarding the translation of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* (Fourth Edition) into plain and simple language.
- Review progress report regarding development of a Fifth Edition of the book, English
- Discuss the existing version of the pamphlet “Twelve Traditions Illustrated.”
- Discuss changes to the text of the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* directed by the 71st General Service Conference.

Services available through GSO’s Literature desk including providing resources to local AA committees, regional correspondence (Southeast), and secretary support to committees, continue to achieve success. This is the time of year when new panels of trusted servants are elected and GSO service desks, including Literature, welcome new chairs and provide service material to support their local efforts.

Nominating

The Nominating assignment coordinated the work of many groups on revisions to current Nominating procedures and on scheduling interviews with new Class A candidates.

Public Information

A few of the preliminary Agenda Items for PI:

- Review 2021 annual reports from the trustees’ Public Information Committee regarding aa.org and aagrapevine.org.
- Discuss feasibility study report on paid placement of PSA videos on streaming platforms.
- Review progress report on the development and implementation of a GSO podcast.

As of October 2021, a draft podcast pilot episode has been recorded and is being edited within our Communication Services Department. This will ultimately be reviewed by an internal Working Group as well as the AAWS corporate board and the trustees’ Public Information Committee

Regional Forums, International Conventions and Accessibilities

The East Central Regional Forum, held November 19-21, marked the completion of four successful virtual regional forums this year. Forums in 2022 will return to in-person settings and may include a virtual component. In addition, planning for a virtual Special Forum focused on remote communities is underway with partners from Argentina and Chile.

FINANCE

The board accepted the October Finance department report highlighting the following information as of September 30:

Actual contributions are \$7,416,647, which is \$293,439 more than this time last year.

Gross literature sales are \$8,613,803 which is \$1,477,745 more than this time last year.

Payroll and benefits are \$6,978,975, which is \$567,919 less than this time last year.

Total operating expense is \$11,543,559 which is \$512,887 less than this time last year.

2021 includes depreciation while 2020 does not.

Surplus for the first nine months of 2021 is \$1,448,089 (The surplus is attributable primarily to greater than budgeted literature sales).

Operating cash was \$1,687,249 which represents 1.3 months of operating expenses.

As of October 15, operating cash is \$1,551,246, which represents 1.2 months of operating expenses

Update Supply chain, paper, print and delivery disruptions 2021 – 2022:

Members and IGCO’s (Intergroups and Central Offices) were notified the disruptions and delays are expected to continue. This is an industry-wide, world-wide issue. Our Production and Member Services teams are actively addressing in myriad ways. Contact Member Services for help in ordering by emailing memberservices@aa.org

The Board Recommendations from Publishing:

- That the eBook *Our Great Responsibility* in English, French and Spanish be sold at a list price of \$9.99.
- That the reduced shipping test pilot be implemented as policy for the Publishing Department and requested that appropriate advanced announcement be sent to Central Offices and Intergroups by GSO management.

Technology/Communication/Services (TCS)

The digital production manager gave a demonstration of the new aa.org website scheduled to launch on December 20. Continued work will follow the soft launch, including ability to listen to books on the site and download PSAs along with refining search, accessibility and reporting capabilities.

The Group Services coordinator shared the newly completed New Group Form, which is being translated. New features include the option to list a meeting as in-person or virtual per the advisory action, “The U.S./Canada General Service Structure recognize online groups and encourage their participation, listing those groups who ask to be listed within the group’s preferred district and area, with the default option being the location of the group’s primary contact.

” Other additions included hyperlinks: a free subscription to Box 4-5-9, a digital group handbook, lists of area registrars, and area websites.

Next to be updated is the Alcoholics Anonymous Group Information Change Form. met with key stakeholders. The DR/ BCP is expected to be completed for the committee’s review in February 2022.

Grapevine Highlights

One of the preliminary Agenda items for Grapevine will be:

- Discuss the wide-ranging impact the Preamble change has had on our AA Fellowship.
- Financially AA Grapevine is trending ahead of budget and ahead of prior year on sales of both subscriptions and literature.
- La Viña is trending ahead of budget on subscriptions and on budget for costs. which are below the year prior.
- The AA message is certainly seeing growth in where and how it is carried. Additional outreach via Instagram and the new Podcast have generated fantastic traffic increases to both website and store.
- 5200 people have listened to the Podcast.
- **Instagram account** for AA Grapevine has 4,752 follows to date, and it has had 110,000 impressions to date. La Vina’s Instagram has just over 500 followers and is trending interestingly at about 10% of the English version, which is comparable to what we see in print and online.
- Prayer and Meditation is a proving to be a popular success.

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• Thanks to the fantastic cooperation of the Corrections Desk and Grapevine Staff we are now directly receiving the list of inmates who have reached out for help from AA and can report that the GV is officially at a deficit of carry the message subscriptions. GV has received a list of over 2000 requests from the Corrections desk, and they have only 1,200 English "Carry the Message" Grapevine Subscriptions and 401 La Vina subscriptions in the pool. Please let those know that contributed their subscriptions that they are making it to prisoners and there is a need for more.

Additional Activities

The A.A.W.S. Board reviewed General Service Conference proposed agenda item submissions from the Fellowship for consideration.

1. The A.A.W.S. Board to create an Intergroup-Central Office Committee (IGCO) manned by a non-rotating staff member.
 - The submission was tabled for discussion during A.A.W.S. Executive Session.
2. That the General Service Conference consider a proposed agenda item to produce the Service Manual, including the 12 Concepts, in a compact disc (CD), audio format, as has been done for the "12 and 12" and the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*.
 - The A.A.W.S. board took no action to forward this to the General Service Conference. Format changes are within the purview of the A.A.W.S. board. Therefore, the request and background will be sent to Publishing department for consideration. It was noted that we are consistently keeping front of mind the necessity of making available all AA literature in print, audio, and visual formats whenever possible.
3. For the General Service Conference, thus the entire Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous, to discuss the most equitable and fair pricing model for both A.A.W.S. and Central Office/Intergroups
 - The submission was tabled for discussion during A.A.W.S. Executive Session

A few of the Proposed agenda items agreed to be forwarded to the 72nd G.S.C., details pending the EDW process.

- Reconsider use of the term "person in custody" in AA literature.
- Consider request to revise the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" to reflect shared experience on service sponsorship.
- Consider request to revise the pamphlet "The AA Group" to reflect the importance of the group as a "spiritual entity" as stated in the Long Form of Tradition Five.
- Consider requests that the chapter titled "The Doctor's Opinion" in the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* be returned to page one, as it was in the First Edition.
- Consider request to revise text in the chapter "Getting plenty of rest" in the booklet *Living Sober*.
- Consider request to add a historical disclaimer to the front of the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*.
- Consider request to restore a paragraph in the story "Freedom from Bondage" in the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*.
- Consider request that all proposed changes to the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* be handled in footnotes.
- Consider requests to limit changes to the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*.
- Discuss request to make AA literature changes slowly and with AA's primary purpose in mind.

As we move forward in this new year, I know that as our Fellowship faces challenges, we also have new opportunities to Carry the Message of Alcoholics Anonymous. Our willingness to work together is vital to our future.

AA'S LEGACY OF SERVICE by BILL W.

Our Twelfth Step—carrying the message—is the basic service that the AA Fellowship gives; this is our principal aim and the main reason for our existence. Therefore, AA is more than a set of principles; it is a society of alcoholics in action. We must carry the message, else we ourselves can wither and those who haven't been given the truth may die

Area Office Reports

Alternate Delegate's Report: Tom B.

The January 2022 Alternate Delegate's Report will cover the following topics:

What are Cluster Forums?

2022 Cluster Forums: Theme, Regions, Locations, Timing.

Area 16 Functions List thru 6/11/2022

Prepaid Convention Update: Dublin & Augusta
DCM Outreach Program

1. Cluster Forums are sharing sessions designed to enhance and widen communication among A. members, service and potential service people, and representatives of the Groups, Districts, and Area. They are gatherings that provide a unique opportunity to share valuable experience, ask questions, and spark new ideas.
2. The 2022 Cluster Forum Theme is "AA Comes of Age 2.0: Unified in Love and Service", with the sub-topics being "How do AAs go to any lengths to Recover, Unify and Serve?", "Going Beyond Fear," and "How to Reach Anyone, Anywhere". The four Regions holding Cluster Forums this year are Southwest hosted by 1A, West Central hosted by 10D, Northeast hosted by 11A, and District 13 hosted by 13B. The Southwest will be held on February 19th in Cairo, flyer is in the January/February Georgia Message and available on our website www.aageorgia.org. Everyone is invited to attend, so mark your calendar. District 1A is looking forward to seeing you in Cairo. The West Central will be held in June, the Northeast will be held in August, and District 13 will be held in November.
3. The following is the list of events being held in 2022 thru 6/11/2022:
 - ◆ Georgia State Service Assembly
January 14-16, Dublin/OFTC
 - ◆ Hilton Head Mid-Winter Conference
January 28-30, Hilton Head, SC
 - ◆ SE Delegate Get Together
February 4-6, Atlanta
 - ◆ Southwest Cluster Forum
February 19, Cairo
 - ◆ Flint River Roundup
March 10-13, Albany
 - ◆ Atlanta Men's Workshop
March 18-20, RockEagle
 - ◆ DCM Pre-Conference Meeting
April 2, Macon
 - ◆ 72nd General Service Conference
April 24-30, Brooklyn, NY
 - ◆ Marietta Spring Roundup
May 6-8, Marietta
 - ◆ Georgia State Service Assembly
May 20-22, Dublin/OFTC
 - ◆ 81st Anniversary Dinner
June 11, Atlanta

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4. The 69th Prepaid Convention will be held right here in Dublin at the Dubose Porter Center at the OFTC, October 21-23, 2022. The 69th Prepaid Convention Committee is well underway with all the plans. You will hear a report from them this morning. The 70th Prepaid Convention will be held in Augusta at the Marriott at the Convention Center, October 20-22, 2023.
5. The DCM Outreach Program that came out of the “Your Voice Matters” exercise is in action. The focus of the DCM Outreach Committee is to reach out to “dark” Districts, to reach out to new DCMs, provide guidance for Cluster Forums, and to strengthen our service structure overall by increasing involvement and participation. The committee meets on a regular basis to discuss strategies and ideas to meet these goals. I would like to introduce the DCM Outreach Committee members and their focused region. Doug Harris, DCM 1A, the Southwest region. Becky Shortland, DCM 5C, the Southeast region. Mike Carroll, DCM 10D, the West Central region. Wanda Paul, DCM 8, the East Central region. Cathy Kott, DCM 15A, the Northwest region. Don Powers, DCM 11A, the Northeast region. Rusty Lavelly, DCM 13A, District 13 region. They are available to give guidance to anyone that has questions about DCM and District responsibilities and communication lines. I would like to personally thank them for their service. They are going above and beyond their normal responsibilities as DCMs to serve our fellowship.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Alternate Delegate. It is an honor and privilege to serve Alcoholics Anonymous in this capacity. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions at: altdelegate@aageorgia.org. I am also available by phone, 770-286-4546.

Secretary’s Report: Liz W.

Good morning, and welcome to all those new to GSSA. I am now going to give you the assembly attendance numbers:

DCMs	32
Alternate DCMs	14
District Secretary/Treasurer	6
GSRs	103
Alternate GSRs	24
Group Secretary/Treasurer	5
Grapevine Reps	8
Treatment Reps	6
Correction Reps	5
Communications Reps	1
PI/CPC Reps	7
Archives Reps	4
Members-at-Large	55
Total	270

We have updated the Service Directory and you can pick up a copy of those today. 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 regularly.

Please 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. Adding or changing group information can be done on our website by going to aageorgia.org. Specific instructions are on the PowerPoint under the Secretary section of the service window. Assembly contributions can also be made on the website. Just click on the big blue “Assembly Contribution” tab at the bottom of

the homepage of our website.

Meeting Guide App: When you update your information at aageorgia.org it updates your information on the Meeting Guide App. There is an exception for the Atlanta and Savannah districts. Those updates will come through your Intergroup office, so be sure to notify them of your changes as well.

Ordering Literature: You may purchase literature on the website as well using the “Buy Online” tab at the top right of the website’s homepage. If you need assistance with anything, the office is open Monday – Thursday/9:00am – 5:00pm and on Friday 9:00am – 1:00pm. Or you can leave a message on the website and someone will get back to you when they are in.

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.

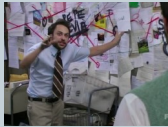
Contact the Secretary: If there is anything I can do to be of service to. You or your group, please contact me at secretary@aageorgia.org

Treasurer’s Report: Kelly G.


Georgia State Service Assembly 2021 Financial Report

PRESENTED BY: KELLY G.
AREA 16 TREASURER

EMAIL: TREASURER@AA-GEORGIA.ORG



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INCOME REPORTING

	2021 Actual	2021 Budgeted	2021 Difference	2022 Budget
Ordinary Income	178,908.53	178,208.88	699.65	187,493.65
Literature	59,299.92	83,807.60	(24,507.68)	83,500.00
Total Income	238,208.45	262,016.47	(23,808.03)	270,993.65

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EXPENSE REPORTING

	2021 Actual	2021 Budget	2021 Difference	2022 Budget
Committees (Office & Service)	36,313.00	36,478.00	165.00	37,132.00
Assembly	540.23	40,816.80	40,276.57	40,816.80
Operations	120,270.16	115,321.12	(4,949.04)	123,670.79
Literature	55,437.80	69,862.50	14,424.70	69,862.50
Total Expenses	212,561.19	262,478.42	49,917.23	271,482.09

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PRUDENT RESERVE FUND

Current Reserve Fund Balance 183,673.98
as of 12/31/2021

Operating Expenses 177,293.80
as of 12/31/2019

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 12.43

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EXPENSES BY COMMITTEE

	2021 Actual	2021 Budget	2021 Difference	2022 Budget
Office Committee	190.03	9,382.00	(9,191.97)	8,852.00
PI/CPC	4.60	2,110.00	(2,105.40)	2,294.00
Communications	1,656.77	6,736.00	(5,079.23)	7,736.00
Treatment	40.82	3,460.00	(3,379.58)	3,460.00
Corrections	-60.00	3,910.00	(3,970.00)	3,910.00
Archives	625.30	3,860.00	(3,234.70)	3,860.00
Grapevine	117.54	2,520.00	(2,402.46)	2,520.00
Miscellaneous	33,398.34	4,500.00	29,198.34	4,500.00

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PREPAID CONVENTION

2021 Total Contributions 39,986.73

Reserve Fund Balance 172,685.48
as of 12/31/2021

Number of Conventions per Reserve 4.08
based on a 3-year rolling average

3- year rolling average: 42,324.96
2017, 2018, 2019 – no prepaid convention in 2020, virtual in 2021

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TOTALS

	2021 Actual	2021 Budget	2022 Budget
Total Income	238,208.45	262,016.47	270,993.65
Total Expenses	212,553.18	262,478.42	271,482.09
Difference	25,655.27	(461.95)	(488.44)

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ONLINE CONTRIBUTIONS

Go to www.aageorgia.org and click the blue button “Assembly Contribution” in the middle of the screen. 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.

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Guest Remarks, Tom H. (SE Regional Trustee):

I am very grateful to serve with you as your Southeast Regional Trustee. When I was elected to the job in April, I stepped on to this fast-moving train. A train moving about 100 MPH, and I had to get up to speed, and I was very nervous about that. I still am, for that matter. I am in my first year and still learning stuff. Being a past Delegate, I know how Tracy must feel stepping into that roll. I just wanted to say that you belong, and you are going to be awesome, and the same for Tom B. Thank you guys, and thank you for your report, Tracy. It was awesome. Thank you, Haley, for speaking last night, and everybody who has done something here this weekend, and for all of those who might not have had a job here but are representing their district and home groups. I want to thank everybody a lot for that.

Did you hear about the Preamble change? Did you hear about it before hand or after hand? Were you upset about it? What about the Fifth Edition of the Big Book coming out? The Fourth Edition Spanish, the plain language Big Book? I mention all of those, and I want to speak to those a little bit, and let you know about some of that process.

There was an advisory action to create a Fifth Edition Big Book. It will not affect the first 164 pages of the Big Book, only the stories in the back and maybe an appendix or two. That is a long process. It took 4 or 5 years when they did the Fourth Edition. I know for the Spanish Edition, there has been a lot of help from a group of people making sure that the translation is done properly. My understanding is that maybe some of the translation in the current Spanish language edition could be better. The plain language Big Book, is an item people are interested in. There are companies that do that. It's not like a group of us are going to get together, and read the book, and make the changes. We are in the process of selecting a company for that project. If you didn't know about any of those changes, prior to them happening, I would encourage you to get more involved in service, because this stuff is important.

One of the things that I have requested is that the process be defined, and given to you, prior to the implementation of any action. So, 4 or 5 years from now, when they are ready to print the Fifth Edition Big Book, I want you to not be taken back by the process. I want input from the Fellowship. There are others on the board that want that as well. Things like how to submit a story, the timeline of the process, all those things should be on the table and talked about so you will know prior to it happening.

Has anybody been to the new website (aa.org)? At the bottom of the website is a place for input. So, if you don't like something, or you do like something, or you have a suggestion for a change, please let us know at the bottom of the page under "contact us". When you open that link, you can contact your regional correspondent, or the website committee directly. I have heard a lot of great ideas over this weekend, and I have taken some notes, but it is better to hear from the "grass roots" of Alcoholics Anonymous. So, please send that email up and tell us what you like or dislike, of any suggestion you may have. One of the suggestions that I have heard already: for someone who is wanting to fine AA for the first time, it should be a one-click button. I should not have to click 5 times to find an AA meeting near me. Especially if we are half drunk and half interested in AA. By the time we get 2 or 3 clicks in we are back to the bottle. Suggestions like that are really good and helpful. So, please use that "contact us" link at the bottom of aa.org. There are different contacts for sending that information up. Did anybody notice the "accept cookies" button (or not) on the aa.org website? We had some talk about that recently too. AA is the fifth choice down when you do a Google search.

Why isn't it the first? Cookies and analytics are a part of that. Has anybody been around long enough to remember the days when they said that the internet is going to kill AA, web pages are the death of Alcoholics Anonymous? Now we are on YouTube, and we have Podcasts, and LinkedIn, and Instagram, we are all over the place. So, we are not as fearful of that anymore, but we still talk about privacy and anonymity with things like cookies and analytics. They are important in order for us to be the first search, but you can opt in or out. If you haven't read the privacy policy, or terms of use policy, and I know most of us don't, but I encourage you to read them, if you want to read them so you can explain them, should you get asked, they are there. Has anyone seen the new service manual? I heard there was a flash sale yesterday when I mentioned it at the "DCM 101", and now we are out of them. There will be more next time. Another thing to give feedback on in addition to the new website. If we don't hear what you want or don't want, how can we improve or fix it? At "DCM 101" we spent a good bit of time on Fellowship Connection. Patrick helped me a lot (Patrick was recognized by the body). Patrick was one of the few DCMs that had used his credentials and logged into Fellowship Connection. Liz mentioned the Directory, the two should coincide with each other at some point. DCMs have "read only" access to Fellowship Connection. If you go under the member section of aa.org, about halfway down the page you will see Fellowship Connection. There you can run reports and look at what groups are listed in your district. I think it is a very helpful tool, but it is a tool that many of the DCMs weren't using and didn't know they could use it. Please pass that information on. Tamera is very familiar with it. Tamera has more than "read only". She can actually make changes in it. I have pointed out Patrick, so wear him out. He knows all about it. Patrick is the expert on Fellowship Connection.

Finances, just really quick ... When COVID hit, and weren't meeting in brick buildings anymore, and we moved to the Zoom platform (or one of the many others out there now), we weren't passing the hat anymore. We didn't have to pay rent, and we weren't buying coffee or literature. Slowly, groups started to add Venmo and PayPal, using technology for contributions. I remember years ago as a fireman, we had to pay for our own staples like eggs, potatoes, salt & pepper, things like that. Every pay period we would throw \$10 in the hat to cover all that stuff. All the new guys were like, do you have PayPal? Cash app? Venmo? Nobody carries cash, and this has been going on for a while. When groups went to the Zoom platform and didn't have to pay rent, a lot of funds built up for groups and even this Area. We sent a 30-something thousand-dollar check to GSO because we had excess in this Area. Same thing with a lot of groups. So, contributions went through the roof. GSO asked for them and you responded. I am hopeful that trend continues. In my home group, when we pass the basket now, there is a laminated card in there for Venmo or PayPal, or different options. You see people scanning it and sending in contributions. So, I hope that continues and I want to thank you for your contributions to GSO. Those funds go to good use.

We are building up to a pre-conference event that Tracy will host. The DCM's have been assigned committees where they will see the agenda items that will potentially be discussed at Conference (not all are). The background material will be out mid-February, and hopefully your DCM has told you what committee your district is assigned to already. So, momentum is building for Conference. At Conference, Tracy will carry your voice, and potentially change some of what you ask or suggest to her on those agenda items based on new information that she

THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA

might receive at the General Service Conference. I know I did as Delegate, I'm guessing David did too (David M shaking head yes). You get up there, and just like at your own home group, you miss a business meeting and come back the following month and have questions about what happened, you missed some of the information. That is what happens at conference, and Tracy will be doing that soon. I know she is going to represent you guys well. I know she is nervous, but she is awesome, and she is going to be really good. So, this momentum is building, and I find it really exciting because it's all of the work we do culminates into these ideas that get presented to the General Service Conference. Some of them make it and some of them don't, some of them we don't like and some of them we love, and we can talk about that, and what I'm getting at is how important it is to have that diversity of thought. If Tom H. ran Alcoholics Anonymous, it probably wouldn't be a good thing. If you ran AA, and you got to decide everything, how good would Alcoholics Anonymous be? That collective group conscience is super important. I'm excited to see it work at the General Service Conference.

Lastly, there is this little storm that is going through the state right now that you may have heard of. Some of us, who may not be as sober as we actually should be, are still going to meet at Cracker Barrel after this and get food before we go back home. Just in case we are stuck in our car for a day and a half. So, if you want to join us, please see me after the meeting. Thanks so much!

Old Business

Final Report from 68th Georgia Prepaid – Jekyll Island – 68th GEORGIA PREPAID CONVENTION

On October 15 through 17, 2021, District 3 held Area 16's first virtual Prepaid Convention which was originally scheduled to take place on Jekyll Island, Georgia. The difficult decision to go virtual was a result of the increasing number of Covid cases in our area, our inability to mandate mask wearing (a violation of Tradition 10) and adhering to the First Tradition that our common welfare should come first. We made this decision in the second week of September, which gave us only about a month to convert our program.

In the spirit of this year's theme, "AA in a Time of Change," District 3 blazed the trail of creating a virtual Georgia State Convention. There were, of course, some glitches, but there were many things that went well.

First of all, we had a very limited time period to get the word out. As soon as the flier was created, a copy was emailed to all DCMs, Georgia intergroups, and Area committees. In addition, Prepaid Committee members shared a copy of the flier and program with as many of our friends as possible. As a result, we had attendees from other states, including but not limited to FL, NY, MA, VA, PA, MD, OH, CA, NC, and TN. Other countries were also represented including, but not limited to, Ireland, UK, and Australia. It was a wonderful opportunity to share Georgia AA with the world.

Attendance was lower than we had hoped but difficult to calculate because a significant number of AA members participated together and groups like the Jekyll Island Group met and signed in under one account for all who were physically present. There were over 200 Zoom sign-ins for the evening speakers. It is also important to reiterate that the total cost of this convention was less than a thousand dollars.

The Webmaster and Web Committee increased the number of participants from 500 on our present Zoom account to 1,000. This obviously was not necessary, but it was good to have that cushion. Due to a technical problem, on Friday afternoon it was capped at 100 and there were complaints of not being able to get in, but it was quickly remedied by the Webmaster. Over the weekend, individuals also experienced their own technical issues, but things were easily dealt with. For example, on Friday night in the middle of the Sober Trivia game, Glen experienced computer problems, but he and Dave were prepared, and it resumed smoothly.

There were minor glitches in playing some of the videos, particularly the Archives presentation of Dr. Bob. The video was then broken into two portions, the first half playing during the dinner hour and the second half later. We should have had one committee member responsible for working with the technical people on the video programs. Also, a request of the tech team was to have a designated person in charge of screen sharing. We did not have one and it was a mistake.

Probably the best thing the committee did was to choose Voices and chair people who were experienced with virtual meetings and good at re-grouping quickly. A script was prepared for the Voices with, basically, bullet points. Each chairperson also received a script specifically for their meeting with detailed instructions and the Serenity Prayer, Preamble, and Lord's Prayer written out. Scheduling was difficult since we did not know how long workshops would take. We ended up with probably too much time between some meetings. Both the Friday and Saturday night entertainment should have been moved up closer to the last speaker.

The Office Committee approved the suggestion that recordings of the convention be put up on our website and remain available until October. We would like to thank Damon for making that possible.

Suggestions and observations were solicited from participants. A summary is as follows:

From the tech team (George and Nisha): The chat room needed to be a little more coordinated behind the scenes using a program like Slack.

Low turnout was addressed by many. Was it because we did not get the word out sufficiently? Was it a political issue, i.e., mask/no mask or vaccine/no vaccine? Why was there a small number of young people?

Some AA members from around the state came to Jekyll Island anyway and held their own meetings. Is there a way this could have been incorporated into our virtual convention if only by an announcement? Should future prepaid conventions include both face-to-face and virtual platforms?

Everyone agreed that there was too much of a time lag between the evening speaker and entertainment. There also was a comment that we should have started later on Friday and ended later on Sunday.

The "script" or "program" created for the Voices and chair people was praised for keeping everything flowing smoothly.

This convention would not have been possible without the incredible assistance of the "tech team": Paul, Dave, Chuck, Janie, George, Nisha, Damon and Micah. They helped with planning the program and, most importantly, they took shifts to facilitate the entire weekend. The committee thanked them with Jekyll Island gifts which cannot begin to reflect our appreciation of their hard work. We also could not have managed without the support and encouragement of our then Alternate Delegate, Jim T., whose patience was unsurpassed.

The committee would like to thank all who attended and participated in this ground-breaking convention which truly reflected AA in a time of change.

Report for 2022 Prepaid Dublin: Dorman P.

Greetings from the 69th Annual Prepaid Committee! We're excited about this year's convention.

Our theme is "AA Comes of Age 2.0: Unified in Love and Service." The Convention will be held Oct. 21-23, 2022, at the Dubose Porter Center of OFTC, 560 Pinehill Rd., Dublin, Ga. The Hampton Inn of Dublin will be the host hotel, and you can make reservations at 478-246-6055.

Our speakers will be Angie P. from Cincinnati, OH; Billy N., from Atlanta; Chris R. from TX; Genevieve B. from Atlanta; Jane L. from FL; Marsha S. from TX., and the AI-Anon speaker is Bev A. from Omaha, NE.

In addition to great speakers, we'll have workshops, including a Concepts Workshop by Southeast Regional Trustee, Tom H., and

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we have events planned including a dance, a golf tournament, a motorcycle poker run, and more.

Please register if you haven't already done so. You can find the registration form on the website, aageorgia.org, or you can register at the table here.

Thanks for letting us throw a party! Looking forward to seeing you all back here in October.

New Business

Approval of New Area Chairs & Co-Chairs:

Archives, Mark G and Drew H
Treatment, Karen S and Don K
Communications, Janie C and Jaki T
PI/CPC, William B and Karen A
GSRs voted by a show of hands. All approved.

Bid for 2024 Pre-paid Convention: Jimmy M.

We couldn't do 2021 face to face, so we looked for the next opportunity, so it's 2024.

We are placing a bid for the 71st Prepaid convention in 2024 to be held in Jekyll Island.

The Jekyll Island Convention Center will be our venue and the dates will be October 17-19, 2024.

The venue capacity is 3600, the banquet room holds 2000, the room where the speaker dinner will take place holds 160. There are 11 break-out rooms for our use available.

If you haven't been to Jekyll in the last 7 years, it has changed tremendously. The list of events we are planning to host includes yoga on the beach, a golf tournament, putt putt, a motorcycle poker run, sober trivia, and a dolphin cruise. Other activities available are bike and walking trails, horseback riding on the beach, GA sea turtle center, the Jekyll Mosaic Museum, or visit the historic district.

We have 10 hotels with 1400 rooms on the island. The host hotel will be Home to Suites, also available are Day's Inn and Suites, Hampton Inn and Suites, Jekyll Island Club, Ocean Club, Marriott Courtyard, Residence Inn, Seafarer Inn and Suites, Villas by the Sea, and the Westin. There are also about 250 rental houses on the island should you want to get a group of people together and rent one of those. There is a great campground as well if you'd like to camp.

Room rates should run from around \$140 to over \$200 per night depending on where you stay and what type of room you select.

Conservative financial projections are that the convention will cost a net of \$79,067 after the projected income from out of state registrations and banquet ticket sales.

General Sharing

David M (Panel 58 Delegate)-I wanted to urge the group to support Lee with the taping. I have some experience in that area, for a few years I did that. Usually, you just pray that you are going to break even. So please support him. He came a long way to be here to do this for us this weekend. Even if you just buy a CD or a flash drive, or a download, he's got all of that. He's also got some really great Big Book studies and stuff out there. So, I urge you to support him, even if it's just something small. Thank you!

John S. (DCM 13D) - Three very quick things, I know people are keen to get on the road with the weather and whatnot. One is I really like this facility, I just wanted to say, and the way things went this weekend, I'm just so grateful to be here. I just thought it was so awesome. I forgot what 2 was. But number 3, I just want to put in a plug for the Atlanta Roundup, which is doing their monthly events again, in person! They lead up to our conference in Atlanta, which is the end of July. In 2 weeks on the last Friday of this month, the Atlanta Roundup is doing

an event in Alpharetta. It's all on the Atlanta Roundup website, all the particulars, but the speaker is Sheldon F who spoke at our prepaid a couple of years ago, who is just awesome, and I'm cooking the chili. It's an eating meeting. So, y'all go on the Atlanta Roundup website and share that around Thank you very much.

Adam S (GSR, 10B, Fresh Start Group) – I'd like to thank all of you for this wonderful assembly this weekend, from our group and from our zone. And I would like to make a motion to adjourn.

Rick M (Acting Assembly Chair) – I see one more person at the mic right now, maybe 2, so if you would hold off for a minute and I'll entertain that.

John R (DCM District 9) – I think you know what I'm fixing to say. I want to encourage this body to strongly consider reinstating 8 cluster forums per year. If y'all look at the map, all the cluster forums are located in the western part of Georgia. Those of you who live in the eastern and southeastern part of the state, it's a 150-250-mile drive to get to a cluster forum. We succeeded before with 8 cluster forums; we can do it again. Thank y'all for letting me share this.

Mary (2B, Tift Area Group) – This is my first time at this assembly. I'm new in the program, and I just wanted to express my gratitude. It was really neat getting to see how AA works behind closed doors. I think you guys did a great job, and I can't wait to come back. And that's really all I have to say. Thank you.

Mark W (GSR, 11B, Conyers New Beginnings) – This is my first visit here and it reminded me of a sticker I just went through a career change years ago, and it was a very difficult change. But it was a sticker on the back of a pickup truck, and it said: "everyone is a beginner at some point". There's a lot of beginners here today, and I'm glad to be one of them. Thanks!

Veronica (District 17) – I just want to let you know, in my district, we have a committee for our first workshop in Spanish for women, and our first workshop will be on October 1st. I am so happy here it is my first time for my home group. Today, I have the opportunity to meet a lot of English women in AA, but I have also the opportunity to meet 2 other Hispanic women in here. Her name is Lisa coming from Augusta, and the other lady translates, and she comes from Marietta. And I am so happy to be here. So, if you have someone who speaks Spanish, a woman. Also, when we have our workshop, the people who speak English, women, everybody is welcome to come.

Rick M – asked Veronica to create a flyer and submit it to Tamara so it can go in the Message.

Alison B (GSR, 11A, Blue Chips) – I wanted to second the motion to adjourn.

Ken P (Alt DCM District 8) – My home group is the I Am Responsible Group here in Dublin, and on their behalf, I want to thank y'all for coming. I hope this facility and the community meet y'all's standards, and I welcome y'all back. Thank y'all.

Adjourn with Lord's Prayer (Spanish & English)
All were in favor of adjourning.

Respectfully Submitted,
Liz W.

Area 16 Secretary

