

DELEGATE / delegate@aageorgia.org

Confidential for members

March/April 2023

Volume 59, Numbers 3-4

Final Responsibility, Ultimate Authority

By Traci M.
Area 16 Delegate

I remember when the General Service Conference seemed larger than life to me. I was so grateful to be sober and excited to work at the registration desk at Assembly. When the Area Officers would sign in at the desk, I thought they were Alcoholics Anonymous. I could never have even imagined that I would be serving Area 16 today like they were then. What I know today is that our groups and members at large are Alcoholics Anonymous. Our leaders are but Trusted Servants.

AA groups hold the ultimate responsibility for our world services. At one point, the fact had to be faced that AA's leaders were perishable. "There were other reasons for this basic shift of ultimate responsibility and authority to AA as a whole. These reasons center around Tradition Two, which declares: "For our group purpose, there is but one ultimate authority — a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they

do not govern." My understanding is that we, the AA groups, through our group conscience and the expression of a loving God, are the "Guiding Force" for our Fellowship.

My hope is we remember our responsibility as we review all of the topics coming up for discussion at the 73rd General Service Conference so that next month when I go to New York for the Conference, I can take Area 16's conscience with me.

The Agenda Items and background are to be distributed to your DCM in mid-February and should be available for your group to discuss. You will be called upon to discuss Agenda Items and provide viewpoints to me from our Group/District level and hence, "Our Voices" from Area 16, Georgia. Please bring these viewpoints to your District and Zone meetings so your DCM will have these for the DCM Pre-Conference Meeting on April 1st at your State Office.

I believe that the informed group conscience is more important than ever. It is the responsibility of our DCMs to keep their GSRs informed, and the GSRs to keep their respective groups informed. In the Pamphlet "The AA Group," page 15 states that "the concept of the 'Home

Group' has still remained the strongest bond between the AA member and the Fellowship." Page 29 states that "the informed group conscience implies that all pertinent information has been studied and all views have been heard before the group votes." I encourage all newly elected trusted servants to read, study and review all pertinent information received from their DCM before asking their group to vote on any issue.

From our Service Manual, "As a voting member of the Conference, delegates bring to its deliberations the experiences and viewpoints of their own areas. Yet they are not representatives of their areas

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ALTERNATE DELEGATE / alt_delegate@aageorgia.org

What is a Cluster Forum?

By Tom B.
Area 16 Alternate Delegate

At the January Assembly there were several questions about Cluster Forums. What is a Cluster Forum? What happens at one of these events? Who is responsible for putting on each Cluster Forum? Who pays for each one? Who can attend them? How were the number of Cluster Forums held each year determined?

Cluster Forums are gatherings that provide a unique opportunity to share valuable experience, ask questions, and spark new ideas. They are a great way for AA members, service and potential service people, and representatives of the groups, Districts, and Area to share information and enhance communication. A Cluster Forum is not a formal decision-making body, thus no formal actions are made or voted on at a Forum. There is no registration fee for Cluster Forums. The event expenses are covered by the Districts of each Region

and through "passing the basket" at each Forum. The travel expenses for the Office Committee and the Area Chairpersons are covered by GSSA as defined in our Georgia Service Manual. The locations and agenda for Cluster Forums are worked out jointly by the DCMs of each Forum.

If an AA member is unable to go to the Georgia State Service Assembly, a Cluster Forum is a fantastic way to stay involved with and hear information about Area 16 and GSO. Any AA member can attend a Cluster Forum. There are reports given by the Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Secretary, and Treasurer, who pass on pertinent information from GSSA and GSO to attendees.

The Area 16 service committees are also present. They report on the happenings of each of the committees and are available to answer any questions on this and how to get involved in each committee at the state and District levels. There is usually an "Ask It Basket" so any AA member can ask a question regarding Area 16 and GSO.

Presentations are presented on predetermined topics. The topics for Cluster Forums have been the 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 theme for the 2023 Cluster Forums is "AA's Three Legacies — Our Common Solution". The presentation theme is "General Service — Our Mighty Purpose and Rhythm" with presentation topics on "Our Common Perils and Common Solution", "Using AA's Literature in Carrying the Message", and "Fostering a Thriving Three-Legacy Culture". These presentations can be in the form of skits, panel discussions, individual presentations, roundtable discussions, or Q&A sessions. Each Cluster Forum committee creates and determines how they will present the Cluster Forum theme and topics.

There are four Cluster Forums held each year in different regions of the

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TREASURER / treasurer@aageorgia.org

January Success

By Todd B.

Area 16 Treasurer

It is a privilege to serve Alcoholics Anonymous Area 16, and I am very proud of the participation from the AA group contributions and literature sales this year, so far. I am pleased to report that at the end of January, Area 16 is on target to meet its budget, provided we keep doing what we are doing. January was a success and on-budget.

I am looking forward to seeing you folks at the Flint River Round-Up, the Southeast Cluster Forum in St. Simons, and the DCM Pre-Conference Meeting in Macon on April 1st. I am glad to be working with the Delegate's Finance Committee for the

Pre-Conference and hope we can educate as many AA's in Georgia about the issues facing AA as a whole and continue to drive participation up.

Service isn't for everyone; it's only for those that want to stay sober. And it is here that I meet and hang with my AA heroes, so thank you guys for showing up for me.

If your group or Zone has any questions regarding the Area 16 finances or where money and spirituality mix, please reach out to me, and I will do everything I can to help.

Keep up the good work Georgia. I'm excited for the first quarter and looking forward to seeing you soon.

Keep on, keepin' on. One Day at a Time.

SECRETARY / secretary@aageorgia.org

Great Time to be Sober

By Bobby O.

Area 16 Secretary

My father who is in our Fellowship and recently celebrated 38 years of recovery in district 1B once said many years ago, at a speaker meeting in Macon, Georgia, "My greatest fear is you will find out I am afraid". That has been one of the most accurate statements of my recovery since I entered Alcoholics Anonymous, and after my first Assembly hopefully, some of that fear and anxiety has subsided.

The January Assembly in Dublin included many firsts for me. My first Assembly as Area secretary, first secretary workshop, first business meeting as secretary, and many more. Now I sit here this morning with coffee in hand getting my second article for the Message ready and preparing to get the minutes typed up for the DCM meeting and the business meeting to provide to the Message. I sit here now with a heart full of humility and gratitude for what I experienced this weekend in those halls, in those rooms. The amazing energy from people being of service, the laughter of seeing old friends, and the cheers from meeting new ones that is everything that the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous is about. Having right relations with the people and the world around us.

As Area secretary, it was an honor and a gift to represent Area 16. I hope the information that I provided was useful. Mainly just the importance of making sure that we continue to update our group in-

formation whether that be the group's servant's information or the group's demographics, so that the newcomer looking for Alcoholics Anonymous will always be able to find that door to that church, the cemetery, and the McDonald's parking lot so that they may be able to receive the gift that we offer. As trusted servants that is our responsibility.

I was reminded of how important this responsibility is. I never know when I am going to get a God shot but this Assembly, I sure got a gut punch during the GSR workshop. The last presenter reminded us that our founders knew that the best way to ensure survival of AA was to submit themselves fully to this humility. Then and only then could we "Children of Chaos" fulfill our duties to be of service when anyone anywhere reaches out for help. We sacrifice our so-called public esteem so that way may be of maximum service to the program of AA and, more importantly, to our fellows.

In closing, I would like to say a big hello and welcome to all the new GSR's, DCM's and their alternates as well as all our new committee members and any other new trusted servants joining the Area 16 service structure. If I can do anything or you have any questions, please e-mail me at secretary@aageorgia.org.

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

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

GRAPEVINE La Viña / grapevine@aageorgia.org

New Book and Carry the Message Project

Mitch B., Chair

Haley W., Co-Chair

Amparo M., La Viña Chair

Area 16 Grapevine / La Viña Committee

As most of you have already heard, Area 16 welcomed our first La Viña Chair ever at the January Assembly! We are so excited to have Amparo covering all of our La Viña needs throughout all of Georgia. She can be reached at lavina@aageorgia.org with any questions you may have. Mitch and I can be reached at grapevine@aageorgia.org

New Grapevine Book Coming: April 2023!

The Home Group: Heartbeat of AA, the 30th Anniversary Edition is a collection of previously published stories from AA Grapevine, the International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous. AA members share moving experiences about the importance and joys of belonging to an AA group. This updated anniversary edition includes extra stories and a brand-new chapter on meetings using technology, showing how members have adapted to meet new challenges. A great way to start an AA meeting.

2023 Carry the Message Project

Want to help another alcoholic? Give a gift subscription to an alcoholic who needs it. Great for sponsees, newcomers, prisons, detoxes, doctor's offices, group celebrations, District and Area events, and giveaways.

Grapevine and La Viña are great Twelfth Step tools! Get your group, District, Area, or AA friends to join in. Carry the message, it's easy!

Go to aagrapevine.org/carry-the-message to get started and see our new carry the message video at www.youtube.com/c/AAGrapevine

The AA Grapevine Half-Hour Variety Hour

Each week longtime AA members Don and Sam will interview a different member about their experience, strength, and hope, in a casual "meeting after the meeting" manner. Check out "Young and Sober [Season 4, Episode 4]" to hear some familiar voices!

Email podcast@aagrapevine.org with comments, suggestions, jokes, and such. To record an Ask-It-Basket question or a recovery-related joke, call 212-870-3418 or email a voice recording to podcast@aagrapevine.org

PI/CPC / picpc@aageorgia.org

PI/CPC and the Media

By William B., Chair

Karen A., Co-Chair

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

We would like to welcome all of the new PI/CPC reps at the group and District level and all who participated in our meeting and workshop at our January Assembly in Dublin. As a reminder to all those rotating in, please connect with your GSR and DCM to make sure your updated information gets into our office in Macon. We want to increase our PI/CPC reps at the District and group levels so we can make sure our up-to-date literature, pamphlets and the PI Combined Service Cards are available for the public.

We are grateful to our volunteers who have been assisting with Public Service Announcements (PSAs) with radio stations in their areas. We are now asking our volunteers to contact our chair or co-chair before making a submission to a station because

one company can own a number of stations, and this can prevent duplicating services. We also have a sample letter available.

Our co-chair will continue working with the Accountability, Veterans, DUI, and Drug and Mental Health Courts, along with planning a PI/CPC workshop in the next few months.

Visit our website at aageorgia.org, click on committees and scroll down to PI or CPC for the latest literature and pamphlets.



Delegate

Continued from Page 1

in the usual political sense; after hearing all points of view and becoming fully informed during Conference discussion, they vote in the best interest of AA as a whole."

I believe that when we invite God into a group conscience that request is granted.

Whether it is in Area 16 or at Conference in New York, I trust that loving God as he expresses himself in our group conscience. While I am a trusted servant, I believe that I am responsible to those I serve.

Unity is a cherished quality of our society. Without you, there will be no me. Today I am grateful to be of service to the program that saved my life. I need you more today than when I first got here, and today the penalty of not being active in AA is greater. In the Twelve and Twelve it states, "Without unity, the heart of AA would cease to beat; our world arteries would no longer carry the life-giving grace of God; His gift to us would be spent aimlessly." I know without a doubt that we will do everything humanly possible to ensure AA's future. I am incredibly grateful that we have so much more than "human power" at work for us.

Alternate Delegate

Continued from Page 1

state, on a rotating basis. Area 16 has eight regions, and each region holds a Cluster Forum. In 2014, the number of Cluster Forums held in a year was reduced to four from eight as a cost-cutting/efficiency measure for Area 16. In 2023, we will have the Southeast on March 25th in St. Simons Island, East Central in June, Northwest in August, and District 17 in November. Information and flyers for these are posted on our website at <https://www.aageorgia.org/cluster-forums.html> as dates and locations are confirmed.

If your region is holding a Cluster Forum, contact your DCM and find out how to get involved. Invite others to attend and participate. They are a lot of fun and very informative.

If you have any questions about Cluster Forums, please contact me – Tom B – at altdelegate@aageorgia.org

ARCHIVES/ archives@aageorgia.org

Upcoming In-Person Workshop

**By Mark G., Chair,
Drew H., Co-Chair**

Area 16 Archives Committee

It was exciting to see so many District Archive chairs at the first State Assembly of 2023. The Archives Committee is thrilled about the future upcoming plans that were discussed — especially the decision to hold an in-person Archives Workshop at our state office and the Archives Room. Dates appear to be shaping up for mid-to-late summer so everyone can attend.

The online presentation on “How the Media helped to grow AA” was a success. Special thanks to Damon E. for all his hard work on editing and getting it up on the website for viewing. The next presentation will be on

March 18th, titled “Big Book: Concept to Print”. Join us as we look at how amazing this process was, preserving and presenting our Fellowship’s best Archive, the program of Alcoholics Anonymous, or “The story of how more than one hundred men and women have recovered from Alcoholism”.

We are looking forward to the future and invite anyone looking to get involved, our doors are always open. We will notify everyone when the workshop details are finalized. If you are interested in being the co-chair of Archives in 2024, please email your service résumé to archives@aageorgia.org. Also, we will soon change the audio recordings on our webpage, so if you haven’t had a chance to listen to our first AA Delegate, please catch her amazing talk.

Treatment /Accessibilities treatment@aageorgia.org

Treatment Near You

**By Don K., Chair,
Claire P., Co-Chair,
Area 16 Treatment /
Accessibilities Committee**

“Treatment” includes many facilities outside of the traditional residential treatment centers. Are there hospitals, halfway houses, sober living homes, V.A. facilities or homeless shelters in your district? While your district may not have a traditional treatment facility, there may be other facilities where we can carry the message. This can be a great way to energize treatment work in your district. One of our districts was shut out of the traditional treatment center because of COVID, but started new meetings at two homeless shelters, which have been very successful. If you want to carry the message to folks in treatment, but don’t know where to start, we suggest talking with your district treatment representative or DCM to find out what your district has in place and how you can help grow this area of service.

Does your group routinely consider accessibility issues? We want to make sure that everyone who needs and wants our help receives it. Sometimes, the barriers are unseen. Transportation, childcare issues, hearing loss, and an inability to read can keep people from receiving the message. If your group has a question about accessibilities, or you have found a new solution, please reach out to us.

The Treatment Committee is working to finalize a location and date for an Area treatment workshop. If your district would be interested in hosting the workshop, let us know. The cost will be covered by our committee, but we need a local host to help organize.

CORRECTIONS / corrections@aageorgia.org

Back to Basics

**By Dawn U., Chair
Brad R., Co-Chair**

Area 16 Corrections Committee

We would like to thank Area 16 for our approval to serve as your chair and co-chair for the Corrections Committee. Alcoholics Anonymous has made carrying the message easier over the last 87 years, with everything from new technology to meetings 24 hours a day. AA is readily available to anyone who seeks to recover. This is not so true with those behind the walls. Most of those behind the walls are limited to one meeting a week, if any. Sometimes we need to go back to the basics and carry the message through a letter.

The Correction Correspondence Service (CCS) is a great way to carry the message of hope to those behind the walls. This service is as easy as

filling out Form-26 electronically or sending by mail to GSO. You will then be connected with someone at least two states away and be able to start communicating through mail. As of Jan. 1st, we have approximately 47,000 inmates in our Georgia correctional facilities. Area 16 currently has 88 members of AA signed up for CCS. This service can be done in the comfort of your own home. If you would like to get started in CCS, please feel free to reach out to us at corrections and we can assist you in getting started. Dawn will be headed to the Southeast Cluster Forum in St. Simons Island on March 25th. Please stop by the Corrections table while you’re there.

We look forward to serving alongside you and carrying the message to those behind the walls.

Keeping in Touch

By Janie C., Chair,
Amy B., Co-Chair
Area 16 Communications
Committee

AA Newsletters

Newsletters are one of the many communication tools we use to share recovery and service information in Alcoholics Anonymous. If you are reading this article right now, you are experiencing our Area 16 newsletter! Some Districts, zones, intergroups, and individual groups also publish newsletters to keep their respective members informed and excited about what is going on. According to the will of the group conscience, these newsletters may contain items such as birthday announcements, group anniversaries, flyers about upcoming events, and articles from trusted servants as you see here in the Georgia Message.

Our General Service Office also publishes newsletters for subscription or online access at no cost. Here a few intended for various audiences that you may want to add to your inbox and/or share with your home group:

Box 4-5-9

This publication is a quarterly news bulletin about AA service, literature, events, sharing from groups, service committees and individual U.S./Canada AA members. I especially enjoy the updates on AA literature and upcoming events around the U.S. This edition tells us about the new "Jacketless" Big Book.



[Click here to subscribe to Box 4-5-9](#)

About A.A.

This newsletter is intended for professionals of all types who work with alcoholics, including professionals in the fields of healthcare, law, corrections, and clergy. This one is full of great articles and re-



sources. As a sponsor I find lots of good information here for the women I meet in AA, as well as lots of resources available to my group.

[Click here to subscribe to Box 4-5-9](#)

Sharing from Behind the Walls

This newsletter contains powerful excerpts from letters sent to G.S.O. by people in custody (shared with their permission) for others involved in AA in correctional facilities. The Corrections desk publishes this newsletter quarterly, and it can be copied and shared with inmates involved in AA in correctional facilities without permission from AA World Services. Although this is not a subscription newsletter, all issues are available online.



[Sharing From Behind the Walls](#)

We have so many wonderful resources available to us in Alcoholics Anonymous. I hope these newsletters are good additions to your toolbox.

Birthday Contributions

District 3 Zone D

Happy Hour Group
Bill J – October 25, 2013
Selina J – October 31, 2013

District 7 Zone A

Happy Hour Group
Micah G – December 6, 2011

District 8

Baldwin Co Group
Jocelyn B – January 1, 2010

District 11 Zone A

Walton Group
Tony M – February 3, 2010

District 14 Zone D

Cedartown Group
Jerry H – December 30, 1984

New Groups

District 13 Zone K

Friday Follies Group
Sanctuary in Him
700 Mars Hill Rd
Kennesaw Ga
Friday 7:00 p.m. Open Speaker

District 13 Zone L

Sometimes Quickly Sometimes Slowly Group
The Summit Wellness Group
745 Hembree Place
Roswell GA 30076
Tuesday 8:00 p.m. Open

New Groups

District 14 Zone B

Mt Zion of Grassdale (MOG) Group
Mt Zion of Grassdale Missionary Baptist Church
209 N Bartow St
Cartersville GA 30120
Tuesday and Thursday 7:00 p.m. Open

District 15 Zone B

7:00 a.m. Light Beams Group
Virtual – Blue Ridge
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 7:00 a.m. Open

CALENDAR of EVENTS

Atlanta Intergroup	Virtual	February 5	
Atlanta Intergroup	Virtual	March 5	
26 th Flint River Round Up	Albany	March 10-12	
District 16D Sponsorship Workshop	Lawrenceville	March 11	
Atlanta Men's Workshop	Rock Eagle	March 17-19	
Area 16 Archives Digital Presentation	Virtual	March 18	
Southeast Cluster Forum Includes (3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4,5A, 5B, 5C, 5D)	3D/St. Simons	March 25	
DCM Pre-Conference Meeting	Macon/GSSA	April 1	11:00am – 3:00pm
Atlanta Intergroup	Virtual	April 2	
District 15B Traditions Workshop	Ellijay	April 8	

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

AA GRAPEVINE

International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous

ASSEMBLY RESERVATIONS

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

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

THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA



SE GEORGIA CLUSTER FORUM

March 25, 2023 10-2

St. Simons Methodist Church

624 Ocean Boulevard

St. Simons Island, GA 31522

AA's Three Legacies – Our Common Solution

General Service – Our Mighty Purpose and Rhythm

Our Common Perils and Common Solution

Using AA's Literature in Carrying the Message

Fostering a Thriving Three Legacy Culture



Coffee and Donuts at 9:30!

**SOUTHERN SOUL
BARBECUE**

SKITS

**MEET AREA 16
TRUSTED SERVANTS**

**FELLOWSHIP
DISTRICTS
3, 4, AND 5**

THORPE ROOM behind the
church across from the
beach.

Contact Jane D.
404-375-3774

THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA

Georgia State Service Assembly Business Meeting Minutes Sunday January 22, 2023 Pending Approval at the May 2022 BUSINESS MEETING

Assembly Minutes 01/22/2023

Call to Order/Serenity Prayer

Delegate's Sharing – Tracy M., Area 16 Delegate:

Georgia State Service Assembly January 2023

My name is Tracy, and I am honored to serve as your Area 16, Panel 72 Delegate. Welcome to our first Assembly of 2023.

I would like to thank Tamera and Melissa and all the volunteers that make our Assembly possible, our Taper Lee, and the staff here at the OFTC.

General Service Conference (GSC):

Subcommittee on Conference Improvements: The subcommittee chair shared initial review of Conference evaluations and plans to focus on the developing of an Illness and Injury Contingency Plan for the General Service Conference. The subcommittee plans to explore voting options that will allow a Conference Member to continue participation during the Conference week if they are physically unable to attend the Conference sessions.

Equitable Distribution of Workload: The GSC 2022 Subcommittee on EDW is prioritizing a focus on how to improve year-two in service to the General Service Conference. They reviewed the 2022 Conference feedback. The subcommittee recommended using virtual meeting technologies before Conference Week to hold a joint committee meeting to discuss new EDW items.

Document Translation: We have a new Document Translations Manager that joined GSO in October. She will immediately assume the responsibility of project management of all document translation needs for G.S.O. She will also participate in the final recruiting of the additional in-house Spanish and French translators which we hope to have in place as soon as possible.

Simultaneous Translation of Conference Background: Our General Manager noted the adjustments to deadlines to receive materials sooner and expanded on the recent onboarding of a Document Translation Manager to support efforts to distribute Conference Background simultaneous in English, French, and Spanish.

Literature: Plain Language Big Book PAIs: The trustee's Literature Committee agreed to forward to the 2023 Conference Literature Committee all new proposed agenda items related to the Plain Language Big Book as one grouped item. The committee also discussed requests from some members regarding access to the draft of the Plain Language Big Book. After due consultation, the committee agreed to provide a monitored, "closed" reading room for Conference members only during the 2023

General Service Conference, where Conference Literature Committee members will be given first viewing of draft chapters in a controlled environment.

The Trustee's Literature Committee reviewed proposed agenda items related to the changes approved by the 2021 General Service Conference to the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* and noted the importance and interest of the Advisory Actions to the Fellowship. The trustees' Literature committee agreed to forward to the 2023 Conference Literature Committee all proposed agenda items related to the changes in the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* as one grouped item with the suggestion that the Conference Literature Committee consider forwarding the item to the General Service Areas for wider discussion looking toward a policy setting whether to edit AA's cofounder's words and, if so, then how to edit them in our current literature. The agenda item would be discussed by the Fellowship during the 2023-2024 Conference year and considered by the Conference Committee on Literature at the 2024 General Service Conference.

Communication Services Department: The Meeting Guide APP version 4.0 was released in September, concluding many months of design, development, user research, and testing. We are pleased that thus far no significant "bugs" have been reported. Based on the feedback we received, users regard the latest version as an intuitive and natural progression of the user interface and APP functionality. Now that version 4.0 has been released successfully, GSO is focused on making "back-end" and data improvements.

The CSD continues its work with Public Information and Publishing to create a GSO Podcast:

GSO is working with developing a timeline for scheduling and planning episodes.

Crafting an "elevator pitch" mission statement for GSO podcast like the AAGV's "People sharing their experience, strength and hope on their recovery from alcoholism." Something like, "People sharing experience, strength and hope on the services offered to the Fellowship of A.A. by the General Service Office."

CSD is working with the subcommittee on AA Membership Survey to communicate and disseminate the results of the survey to the membership and others on www.aa.org. Following the recommendations of the subcommittee on the membership survey, we will work with a graphic designer and website vendor to create a mock-up of the new survey results page.

Newsletters: Communications Services Department: Clorinda and her team have assumed responsibility for all

THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA

“Newsletters” published by GSO. These include *Box 4-5-9*, *About AA*, *LIM*, and *Sharing from Behind the Walls*.

GSO Tours: On October 5th, the Office resumed receiving visitors again after a two and a half years hiatus. In just a little over three weeks, our GSO welcomed 46 visitors, including several international members. In the brief time, AA members came from as far as Tokyo, England, Germany, Florida, Guatemala, Maine as well as NYC and New Jersey. The Office shared that, while it has been busy, is has also been rewarding to re-establish this vital spiritual opportunity to welcome visitors to our General Service Office.

We have also taken a further significant step in moving ahead from the implications of the pandemic. As of September 12th remote work for all employees is holding at a maximum of two days per week. Depending on individual employee preferences and roles, several are now working in the office four or five days per week. This fits well with welcoming visitors as the office is now quite full on a regular basis.

AA Grapevine Upcoming Magazine Topics for 2023:

January: Spiritual Awakening,
February: Making Amends,
March: Getting Involved in AA Service
April: AA and Families.

Upcoming Grapevine Books, For the Spring:

Home Group Book

AA La Viña Upcoming Magazine Topics 2023:

Jan – Feb: Prayer and Meditation,
Mar – April: People who Ordinarily Would Not Mix
May – June: Relapse Prevention

Instagram / Podcast Update, thru September 30, 2022:

GV Followers 8,403 and LV 1,012
Podcast Downloads have exceeded 250,000.
Mondays at aagrapevine.org/podcast

International Convention - Regional Forums:

Regional Forums: There were around 400 attendees with many first-time participants at our Southeastern Regional Forum in December in New Orleans. There were presentations and workshops on a variety of topics. There were opportunities for sharing and asking questions of our GSO Staff and Past and Present Trustees in attendance. Tom and I attended the Forum.

Virtual North-South Connections Special Forum and the 2022 Pacific Regional Forum

The committee reviewed the summary of the evaluation questionnaires for the 2022 and a proposal to provide technology services for interactive, online, real-time access to in-person Regional Forums. The committee had a robust discussion about the pros and cons of holding

hybrid regional forums. The committee voted to continue in-person-only regional forums. However, the committee agreed that it may be useful to revisit the subject in a year.

2025 International Convention Consultant Update:

The first dispatch of the 2025 International Convention Membership Survey has been completed and we are evaluating the results. While air travel in the US/Canada has generally stabilized, the international implications of air travel due to COVID – especially in Asia – warrant ongoing monitoring. Within Vancouver, accommodations are plentiful, and the 2025 International Convention logo will soon be unveiled in an invitational flyer.

2025 International Convention Member Engagement Survey:

The committee reviewed the survey results and noted that only 24% of the survey respondents indicated interest in a hybrid component to the 2025 International Convention. The consensus of the committee was that the options for consideration would be either: 1.) no hybrid component, or 2.) a hybrid component limited to the three big meetings plus the flag ceremony. This item will be included on our next Member Engagement Survey.

Our International Convention consultant, provided a brief overview of recent activities in the planning process for the 2025 International Convention, including:

- Processes regarding key vendor selection including RFP selection, and approach to vendor review,
- Suggestions for estimating our 2025 attendance (e.g., Founders' Day, ICYPAA, International Women's Conference),
- Considering the hotel situation, and in discussions with Airbnb, we are confident that we will have units sufficient to accommodate our attendees,
- Continuing discussions with international border personnel who want to be as helpful they can under the law, and
- Focusing on meetings with stadium production personnel.

Volunteer Management: They are organizing the volunteer committee (estimated to be between 3,000-5,000+ people).

Draft survey regarding use of various prayers at the International Convention: The committee reviewed and approved the survey as submitted. The committee requested that the actual survey be dispatched on November 15 with a December 15 deadline.

Nominating: Currently processing nominee information in preparation to elect the Trustee-At-Large, Canada and two regional trustees [Northeast and Southwest] and at the 73rd General Service Conference. There are no vacancies to fill next year for Class A Trustees.

Treatment Facilities / Accessibilities/Loners and Internationalists Meeting:

The committee reviewed a draft pamphlet “*For Professionals*

THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA

How A.A. 'Bridges the Gap' to Help Alcoholics

"A.A. Guidelines on Remote Communities": The Staff Secretary shared about the ongoing progress on the A.A. Guidelines on Remote Communities.

International: The International desk is working on the 27th World Service Meeting Final Report. The World Service Meeting, that was held Sept. 27 – October 2, serves as a forum for sharing the experience, strength, and hope of Delegates who come from all parts of the world. It seeks ways and means of carrying the AA message to the alcoholic who still suffers, in any nation and any language. It can also represent an expression of the worldwide Group Conscience. The meeting encourages the planning of sound service structures and exploration of expanding AA services to reach the alcoholic through internal communication, literature distribution, sponsorship, public information, community relations and institutions service.

Held every two years, in locations alternating between New York City and rotating between another member country. Our two trustees-at-large typically serve as delegates to these meetings. This year, there were 62 International Delegates representing 51 countries.

Online Groups: The Conference Committee discussed the request for a progress report from the General Service Board's Ad Hoc Committee on the Participation of Online Groups (POG) in the US and Canada Service Structure be included as background for the Conference Committee on Policy / Admissions in advance of the 73rd General Service Conference. The Chair of the ad hoc Committee confirmed that this request will be met. The ad hoc POG Committee has focused its work on developing and sending a survey to all US/Canada Delegates. The data is still coming in - there have been many requests for workshops, town halls, and special meetings to report out on the work to date (as well as to hear additional perspectives on this topic). For example, a workshop was conducted at the 27th World Service Meeting and additional sharing opportunities have been provided at Regional Forums, as well.

AAWS Report on Self-support: Activities of the Self-support Subcommittee, included:

- Incorporating Group search features in the online contribution portal,
- Gathering stories received from GSO employees related to self-support, and
- Compiling a report on Fellowship sharing on virtual baskets.

One specific improvement mentioned is that the member will no longer see the Group search feature unless they are making a Group contribution. This will decrease confusion when an individual member contributes.

Update on Contribution Flyer SMF-203: The committee had an extensive discussion on the flyer. The committee reviewed a revised draft, suggested editorial changes, and provided general comments. An updated draft will be forwarded to publishing with consideration that a black and

white printer friendly version be available and that a contrast checker be used for readability as it relates to accessibility considerations.

Technology Services: Our Director of Technology Services evaluated vendors to conduct the Security Audit approved in the 2022 budget. Throughout October, the Technology team launched a month-long cybersecurity awareness program through KnowBe4. Each week short videos and games are automatically emailed to GSO employees with the content focused on security.

Public Information: The 2022 AA Membership Survey is completing the Delegate data collection and processing phase.

Every AA Membership Survey has been a current snapshot of a limited number of the total AA group population, based on a moment in time.

The committee would like to thank all the Area Delegates for their service and participation. While there were some difficulties in conducting the survey, perhaps it's a good time to remember ... progress not perfection.

Publishing Employees: GSO's Managing editor's final day as a full-time employee in the Publishing department was October 7. GSO is actively recruiting a new Managing Editor. In the interim, our Editorial Process Manager has stepped up as interim project-management point person, as are retired Staff employees.

"Plain Language" Big Book: Four new plain-language draft chapters have been delivered to the TABB Committee for review. The Writer continues moving forward and meeting biweekly with Publishing Director and Editorial project editor.

Publication Operations: Worldwide paper, printing, trucking, and other disruptions continue to beset the supply chain, causing backorders of books and other items throughout the publishing industry.

It is recommended that literature be ordered from your State Office or Intergroup or Central Office
AA's "online store" continues to notify members of any backorders when ordering (which has proven to be quite helpful).

Additions to our GSO Staff:

We welcomed Karina Cascante, Group Services, Michael Riley, CPC, and Misha Quill, Public Information as they joined the ranks of GSO staff.

Corrections: Corrections Service of Canada (CSC) is eager to work with AA to raise awareness as to what AA has to offer for the alcoholic reaching out for help, such as the Corrections Correspondence Service (CCS). Discussion continues how to make A.A.W.S and AA Grapevine literature available on tablets for those members in custody. Corrections desk has put out a "Call to Action" for all trusted servants in Canada to increase the awareness and participation of the Corrections Correspondence Service among our members who are in custody. We have a waitlist of members on the outside waiting to be of service.

THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA

Dr. Al Mooney, Class A Trustee, was appointed to be the chair of the working group with the hopes of getting tablets into the Canadian facilities. The group is also inquiring about having virtual meetings.

The committee revisited the request forwarded by the 72nd Conference Committee on Corrections to update the section "Singleness of Purpose" in the Corrections Workbook to reflect current terminology.

Young People: We have requested submissions of video content created by young people on how they carry the message to other Young People who may benefit from our life-giving solution.

Support is needed to help our young AA population know about this project: The landing page with details, follows:

<https://www.aa.org/young-peoples-video-project>.

"Young People and AA": The committee received a report from Publishing Department about the update of the pamphlet "*Young People and AA*" including the selection of a cover and the completion of the text.

Finance and Budget-Unaudited, Third Quarter performance stats are in:

Contributions - Unaudited:

Year to September 30, 2022, Seventh Tradition Contributions are \$7,386,529. This represents approximately 67% of the 2022 budget of \$11,000,000 (with 75% of the year elapsed). Customarily, the Fourth Quarter experiences an increased tempo due to Gratitude month, Alkathon proceeds, and year-end contributions.

Literature - Unaudited:

September marked the fourth consecutive month of gross literature sales more than \$1 million - a milestone which has not been reached in several years. However, supply chain disruptions throughout the worldwide paper and printing industries continue to unfavorably impact the manufacturing cost of A.A.W.S. literature.

Expense - Unaudited:

Year to September 30 payroll and benefits expense is \$6,890,148, which is 70% of the budget amount with 75% of the year elapsed (so, we are ahead of budget).

Total operating expense year to September 30 is \$12,638,367 which is 72% of the budget amount with 75% of the year elapsed (a slightly favorable variance).

Overall Deficit or Surplus:

Our overall operating deficit year to September 30 is \$545,496 compared to a budgeted deficit of \$855,032. Given the circumstances, we are ahead of budget.

Reserve Fund - Unaudited:

As detailed by Kevin Prior, our non-alcoholic Treasurer of the General Service Board, our Reserve Fund continues to hover at just under 8 months (7.67 to be more specific) and we'll be developing our forecasted General Service Board, AA World Service

Board, and AA Grapevine Board budgets for 2023, respectively.

Office Operations: The Fellowship Connection (FC) training video for Area Registrars is now completed! The video was posted on FC portal in October and a communication to this effect was sent out to Area Registrars.

Archives Committee: The Committee plans to curate a new digital exhibit on A.A.'s earliest pamphlets from the 1940s. Draft of digital exhibit completed in 2022: then to be translated in 2023 following archives budget approval.

Note: Archives projects are typically long-term, sometimes spanning years through completion. Please keep in mind that factors such as the inordinate number of research queries, and assisting onsite visitors or researchers impact our projected goals.

For those who plan to visit our GSO, a new exhibit commemorating the history of International Conference of Young People in A.A. (ICYPAA) was installed in September. If you travel with a group, please contact the Office ahead of time at: gsotours@aa.org or (212) 870-3430.

Cooperation with the Professional Community:

Pamphlet for Mental Health Professionals: The committee received a verbal report from the working group on the development of a pamphlet for mental health professionals. Ten mental health professionals have agreed to be interviewed to provide the basis of the pamphlet.

The committee reviewed a progress report on the LinkedIn page. The committee noted the usefulness of the LinkedIn page to share information about AA and resources with professionals.

The committee reviewed a list of potential CPC exhibits for 2023. The committee reviewed the CPC exhibit evaluations from local A.A. volunteers and discussed the effectiveness of CPC exhibits at national professional conferences.

The fall 2022 issue of *About AA* is available
Box 459 Winter Issue is now available.

ROUND ROBIN DISCUSSION

It has been suggested that Literature items be forwarded to Areas for wider discussion, looking toward setting a Policy on how and whether to edit A.A. Founder's words in our current literature. I plan to have a Round Robin Discussion on some of the recurring Agenda Items regarding Literature. Details will be sent out before our May Assembly. This will be for all members to participate.

Our General Service Structure is our gift from our Co-

Founders. I am honored to be a part of that General Service

Structure. I believe I have a right to be grateful. There is a

priceless freedom that comes with that right.

On the last page of the *AA Service Manual*, Bill ends with

these few sentences:

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"Freedom under God to grow in his likeness and image will ever be the quest of Alcoholics Anonymous. May our General Service Conference be always seen as a chief symbol of this cherished liberty. To a man, we of A.A. believe that our freedom to serve is truly the freedom by which we live-the freedom in which we have our being.

I am looking forward to 2023 and the opportunities that our Area must participate in Alcoholics Anonymous. Let's get as many members involved as we can in carrying the message.

Thank you for allowing me to serve. Tracy Miller - Area 16 Panel 72 -Delegate

Recognize Past Area Officers

Christy G., Rusty L., & Harold I. – Past Treasurers
Liz W. – Past Secretary

Approve Minutes from September 2022 Business Meeting

Approved by show of hands – All approved

Final Report" 69th Pre-Paid Convention 2022-Dublin

Thank you for helping us create an exceptional 69th Georgia Prepaid Convention. District 8 couldn't have done it without help from neighboring districts and groups, and from previous convention planners and chairs, and the office committee. Whenever we asked for help, such as with groups committing to provide refreshment in the hospitality room, or for individuals to volunteer to help at the registration desk, or DCMs for spreading the word, the hand of A.A. was there. Area 16 showed up and showed out.

It's worth mentioning the obvious: as the first in-person Prepaid convention since 2019, we had concerns: would people show up? Dublin, while fantastic, isn't a known tourist destination. At the Assembly in September, we had 420 people registered. By Saturday night of the convention, we had 1250 actual registrants, and 997 people were present. 450 people registered on site! Big props to our registration chair and co-chair, Wanda P. and Dwayne W. and their crew!

Attendance at events:

Open A.A. meetings: Friday 9:30 pm = 35, Saturday 8:00 am = 40, Saturday 9:30 pm = 27, Sunday 8:00am = 44

Workshops: Relationship = 150-175, Concepts = 40, Traditions = 60, Al-Anon = 60

Haunted Montrose = 42

Trivia = 100

Dance = 70

Yoga: Saturday = 12, Sunday = 13

Motorcycle ride = 30

Golf = 20

BBQ Dinner = 175

EXPENSES

Facility	\$11,613
Speakers and Program	\$6,163
Entertainment	\$1,920
Outreach	\$163
Registration	\$1,519
Guest Expenses	\$9,007
Convention Comm. Expenses	\$1776.00
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$32,161
(closer to \$36k)	

We had heard previous convention chairs say that if you want to revitalize enthusiasm for recovery in your district, put on a Prepaid convention, and that has been our experience. If you're interested in doing so, you'll have lots of help, and the rewards are unbelievable.

The Big Book says it best: "you will find release from care, boredom, and worry. Your imagination will be fired. Life will mean something at last. The most satisfactory years of your existence lie ahead. Thus, we find the fellowship, and so will you."

It was a privilege and an honor to meet you on the Road of Happy Destiny. Thank you for allowing District 8 to be of service!

Amy B.

Report: 70th Pre-Paid Convention 2023-Augusta

My name is Fran Martin and I'm an alcoholic. I am from District 12 and my homegroup is the new perceptions group. Our dates are October 20th – 22nd 2023. We will be at the Augusta Marriott and Convention Center the hotel and the Convention Center are all in one facility. This will be on the riverfront in downtown Augusta. Many restaurants and shops. All with in walking distance. The facility will hold 1300 in the auditorium. There will be 2 large rooms for 50+ ppl. Scott the co-chair is planning all the meeting and workshops. The theme is "A. A's three legacies: Our Common Solution". There will be 3 AA and 1 Alanon speakers. There will be a workshop on the traditions and concepts. There will be a motorcycle run, disc golf and golf. There will be a fellowship dinner Saturday night. More details to follow soon on the website. Thirty-one people registered this weekend. We got 209 from the Dublin conference.

Area Officer's Reports (Alternate Delegate, Secretary, and Treasurer)

Alternate Delegate – Tom B.:

January 2023 Alternate Delegate's Report – Tom B.

What are Cluster Forums?

2023 Cluster Forums: Theme, Regions, Locations, Timing.

Area 16 Functions List thru May 2023

Prepaid Convention Update: Dublin, Augusta & Jekyll Island

DCM Outreach Program

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.

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A Cluster Forum is not a formal decision-making body; thus, no formal actions are made at 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.

The 2023 Cluster Forum Theme is: "A.A.'s Three Legacies – Our Common Solution", with a presentation theme: "General Service – Our Mighty Purpose and Rhythm". The subtopics being "Our Common Perils and Common Solution", "Using A.A.'s Literature in Carrying the Message", and "Fostering a Thriving Three Legacy Culture". The four Regions holding Cluster Forums this year are Southeast hosted by 3D, East Central hosted by 9, Northwest hosted by 15A, and District 17. The first Cluster Forum is scheduled for March 25th in St. Simons Island. Flyers will be available on our website

www.aageorgia.org. All are welcome to attend.

The 2023 Area 16 Functions List through May was shared. To receive a copy of the most up to date 2023 Area 16 Functions List please email the Alternate Delegate, altdelegate@aageorgia.org.

Georgia Prepaid Convention report:

The 69th Prepaid Convention was held in Dublin at the Dubose Porter Center at the OFTC, October 21-23, 2022. The convention was well attended and a great time.

The 70th Prepaid Convention will be held in Augusta at the Marriott at the Convention Center, October 20-22, 2023. They are making excellent progress and have many activities planned for the weekend.

The 71st Prepaid Convention will be held in Jekyll Island at the Convention Center, October 18-20, 2024. Contracts with the facility have been signed.

We accepted bids for the 72nd Prepaid Convention in 2025.

The focus of the DCM Outreach Committee is to reach out to inactive 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. The DCM Outreach Committee was introduced; Kirby, DCM 2B, the Southwest region. Becky Shortland, DCM 5C, the Southeast region. Tiffany Quick, DCM 10D, the West Central region. Wanda Paul, DCM 8, the East Central region. Tod Page, DCM 15B, the Northwest region. Don Powers, DCM 11A, the Northeast region. Wally Lewis, DCM 13A, District 13 region. They are available to give guidance to anyone that has questions about DCM and District responsibilities and communication lines. Thank you for their service. They are going above and beyond their normal responsibilities as DCMs to serve our fel-

lowship.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Area 16 Alternate Delegate. It is an honor and blessing 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 – Bobby O.:

Attendance Report

DCM's = 41 - Alt. DCM's = 24

District Secretary/Treasurers = 12 - Group Secretary/Treasurer = 1

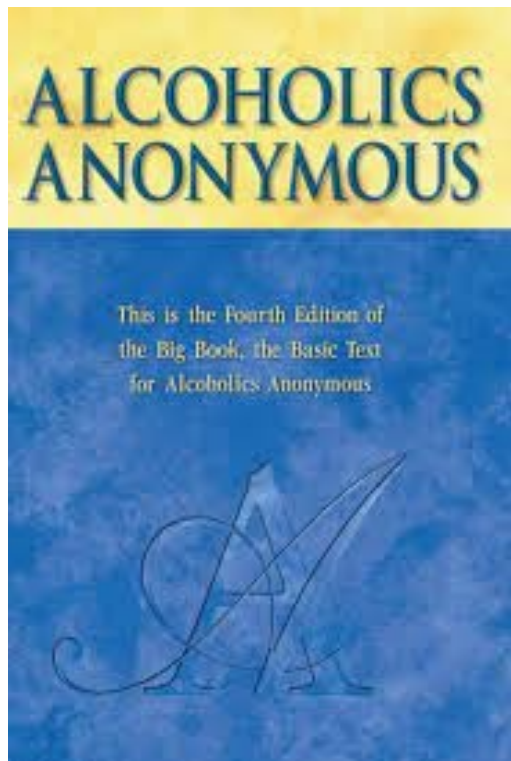
GSR's = 188 - Alt. GSR's = 45

Grapevine Reps = 4 - Treatment Reps = 6 - Correction Reps = 4

Communications = 3 - PI/CPC = 10 - Archives = 6

Members at large = 55 - Total Attendance = 399

Treasurer – Todd B.:



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Introduction 1/22/2023

- New Treasurer
- New Chapter
- New Dialogue
- 2023 Kick-off and 2022 Wrap-up
- Focus on Values and Communication
- Todd B. 770-364-7765
- treasurer@aaageorgia.org



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2022 Year End Favorable

2022 Profit/Loss	
Total Income	\$263,637.73
Total Expenses	\$243,462.00
Profit/Favorable	\$20,175.73

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Expense Reporting

Expense Reporting				
	2022 Actual	2022 Budget	2022 Difference	2023 Budget
Committees (Office & Service)	\$32,481.98	\$35,572.00	\$3,090.02	\$63,112.00
Assembly	\$35,142.57	\$40,816.80	\$5,674.23	\$42,172.00
Operations	\$111,805.08	\$123,670.78	\$11,865.70	\$130,445.24
Literature	\$64,032.37	\$69,862.50	\$5,830.13	\$69,862.50
Total Expenses	\$243,462.00	\$269,922.08	\$26,460.08	\$305,591.74

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PRUDENT RESERVE FUND

Current Reserve Fund Balance \$237,539.86
as of 12/31/2022

Operating Expenses \$243,462.00
as of 12/31/2022

The office committee has voted to continue using 2022 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

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Income Reporting

Income Reporting				
	2022 Actual	2022 Budget	2022 Difference	2023 Budget
Ordinary Income	\$182,369.74	\$187,493.64	(\$5,123.90)	\$206,966.01
Literature	\$81,267.99	\$70,000.00	\$11,267.99	\$83,000.00
Total Income	\$263,637.73	\$257,493.64	\$6,144.09	\$289,966.01

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PREPAID CONVENTION

2022 Total Contributions \$41,931.66

Reserve Fund Balance \$169,441.02
as of 12/31/2022

Number of Conventions per Reserve 4 based on
a 3-year rolling average

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

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Old Business

Vote on Motion made in May 2022

For the motion refer to the July/Aug 2022 message at aageorgia.org

My name is Rusty Lavelly and I am an alcoholic. I am past DCM 13A and past Area 16 treasurer. I arise in opposition to the motion.

As we know, our service manual is not always clear. We have, over the years, made changes to it to clarify its meaning and improve and update its procedures.

Page 18 under the section Qualifications & Duties of State Officers: Qualifications of the Delegate #5 reads: "In office for 12 months of the year preceding election year as a DCM or Alternate Delegate, actively engaged in group, district and state affairs."

The current motion attempts to clarify this qualification by simply requiring a minimum of one year of service as DCM to become Delegate meaning anyone who has ever served as little as one year as DCM could be nominated for Delegate from the floor. Area 16 places a lot of work on the shoulders of our Delegate. Not only does our Delegate represent us throughout Area 16, but also to AA as a whole, most importantly at the General Service Conference. Based on the qualifications listed in the Georgia State Service Manual, it is expected that our Delegate have extensive experience in how AA works at the group, district, and area levels. While it specifically only requires one year of service as GSR, historically, two years as DCM has always been expected, though not clearly stated. In fact, a review of Delegates going back at least 40 years does not demonstrate a Delegate who did not serve two years as DCM prior to assuming the office of Delegate, irrespective of when the person completed those two years of service.

The words "In office for 12 months of the year preceding election year as a DCM..." does imply to me that the person is currently in their second year as DCM, since the prior 12 months would be considered their first year as DCM, though I understand the confusion as this is not clearly stated. However, Page 29 under the section Election Procedure and Voting: Delegate and Alternate Delegate #1 reads: "In May of an election year, the State Secretary will have a roll call of the DCMs. All DCMs in office for 12 months of the year preceding election are automatically eligible for nomination for Delegate." This statement confirms that those DCMs in office for the prior 12 months who are current DCMs must be in their second year.

The current motion removes the expectation of a second year of service as a DCM prior to assuming the office of Delegate and therefore reduces the knowledge and experience gained during that second year of service as DCM. Though it may not be true for all, I assure you that I was much more knowledgeable and effective as a second year DCM than I was during my first year. It seems to me that a better course of action here would be to simply state that the qualification should require that the person standing for delegate be in their second year as a DCM (page 18 #5) or have already completed two years as DCM (page 29 #3). Because this motion does not do that and because I believe that having only one year of service as DCM reduces the knowledge and experience gained in group, district, and area affairs, I oppose this motion and suggest that the motion-maker withdraw and clarify the motion to align with our current and historical practice more accurately or that this motion be rejected.

Eric S. GSR from the Wilmington Island group. Requested a clarifying reading of the motion.

Debi K. provided a clarifying reading of the motion.

Vote taken and did not pass by 2/3 majority

Minority Opinion asked – there was no minority opinion

New Motion: January 22nd, 2023

Name of the originator: Will D. – GSR of the chapter three group zone 13A

Motion seconded by Beth D. – GSR of it's in the book zone 13A
In the Georgia a service manual, page 18 replaced the wording in #5 with the following: Be a current second year DCM or have previously completed two years as a DCM actively engaged in group, district, and area affairs.

Ron S. Hoboken Group: The new motion does not exclude the Alternate Delegate

Debi K and David M. – The qualifications are the same for Delegate and Alt. Delegate.

Tracy will appoint an ad-hoc committee.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports on the motion made at the September 2022 Assembly:

Ad-Hoc Committee Report December 31, 2022

Ad- Hoc Committee: Wanda P., DCM 8 - Chair

Laura Lee B.– DCM 5A

Tracy M. – DCM 16F

Tod P. – DCM 15B

Jim Y. – DCM 11B

At the September 2022 Assembly, Beth R. (GSR, Serenity, 13E) – "I make a motion: In the Georgia A.A. Service. Manual, under qualifications of the G.S.R, and all Area Committee Chairpersons (except Grapevine) Currently reads: 1. Two (2) to three (3) years of continuous sobriety. Change to 1. Minimum of two (2) years of continuous sobriety.

And under DCM Qualifications change 1. Four (4) to five (5) years of continuous sobriety within the State of Georgia (so that he/she may be eligible for election as Delegate).

Change to 1. Minimum of Four (4) years of continuous sobriety within the State of Georgia (so that he/she may be eligible for election as Delegate). Anastasia D. (GSR, Keystone, 16C) – I second that motion

The committee met three times via Zoom. We discussed information from several resources. Please see below all resources we used at the bottom of report.

Several Areas were contacted, those that responded stated they use the G.S.O. Service Manual to set guidelines for G.S.R. and D.C.M. Area 16 is unique; they are the only area that has their own service manual. We reached out to several Districts. The responses from the districts were divided with no changes to the service manual and Districts that would like to see clarification of the guidelines.

The G.S.O. Service manual suggests G.S.R.'s have at least two (2) years of sobriety and Four (4) or five (5) years of continuous sobriety for D.C.M. The Georgia A.A. Service Manual suggests (2) to three (3) years of continuous sobriety for G.S.R and Four (4) to five (5) years of continuous sobriety for D.C.M.

We concluded that the motion made would clarify the qualification for both trusted servant's position.

After discussing all the resources, we had access to, we rec-

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commend the motion be passed as written for clarification

Respectfully submitted, Wanda P. D.C.M. – District 8

Resources used:

G.S.R General Service Representative pamphlet

The A.A. Group pamphlet

Your D.C.M. – District Committee Member pamphlet

A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Services pamphlet

Georgia A.A. Service Manual

Each member talked with the groups within their district

A.A. Areas 1, 14, and 15

Discussion: None

New Business

Bid(s) for the 72nd (2025) Georgia Pre-Paid Convention – Claudia R. – DCM District 6:

District six would like to place a bid for the 72nd Georgia pre-paid convention, in 2025, to be held in Columbus Georgia. The venue will be the Columbus Trade and Convention Center, on October 17th, 18th, 19th. Currently these dates are available at this venue, estimated rental costs \$17,500.

The price includes a large room that can hold 2,000 people, along with two breakout rooms (Friday & Saturday) (capacity of 200, and can be partitioned), along with a hospitality room (Friday and Saturday). The Marriott hotel located across the street from the venue has 177 rooms available at \$170. Just blocks away from the venue is the Hotel Indigo \$158, AC Hotel Marriott \$170, Fairfield Inn & Suites \$125 (across the river) and City Mills \$165 (pets allowed, about a half a mile from venue, and on the Riverwalk)

Columbus has grown in the past years since the local University purchased and developed the downtown area. The Convention & Trade Center is located blocks from shops and restaurants, where one can choose from over a dozen restaurants to dine in. For a light lunch, between \$7 - \$14, there is Subway, Plucked Up and Momma Goldbergs. If you are looking to spend between \$15-\$25 there are several choices: Smoke, Simple Greek, Downtown Vietnamese, Black Cow, Vertigo, and Bodega. If you feel like going big, I recommend 11th and Bay, Mabella's, Denim & Oak, or The Salt Cellar. There is also a food hall located two blocks from the trade center, offering a variety of restaurants. If you're just looking for a good cup of coffee, we have two locally owned coffee shops, Fountain City Coffee, and Iron Bank, both also serve food. Mind you this is not an exhausted list, just a sprinkling of our local food choices.

As far as things to do, for the adventurous souls, we have one of the top twelve man-made adventures in the world (USA Today), white water rafting. People can experience 5 class 4 plus rapids along with 10 smaller rapids. Or you can zipline across the Chattahoochee enjoying 1200' of ziplines, land in Alabama where you can walk a treetop canopy, before zipping back to Columbus. For those who lean towards outdoors and exercise, we have 30 miles of walking/biking trails along the river. It's a pleasant 10-mile bike

ride to Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center and the National Infantry Museum. The National Infantry Museum was voted as the best free military museum (USA Today) in the USA, and one of the 12 best museums in the world (CNN). Those who like to ride two wheels with a motor, we will have a guided motorcycle ride to Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, and Historic Warm Springs. History buffs can stop and visit the Little White House, where Franklin Roosevelt built a personal retreat. Finally, since this will be during the month of October, Callaway gardens has a wonderful Pumpkin light show, and for those that like to scream there's Pope's haunted farm.

We welcome you to come feel the energy, embrace our fellowship, and enjoy all that Columbus has to offer.

Claudia R. DCM District 6

Presentation and vote on redistricting 13D to 13H

Debi K referred to the zoning on district in the Georgia AA service manual page #16.

Chris L – GSR of Clarkston Group So our district consists of six groups five of the six groups are active our DCM is out with COVID that's why he's not here we don't have an alternate DCM and so over the past year it's been difficult to get any candidates to replace the DCM he's going in his third year and should have been rotated out the end of last year after some consultation with her group conscience it was so yeah area get the minute no we can join you know a local is best record without be a better fit Unknown - Have you consulted with other. Chris relied yes, we consulted with DCM of 13H Mike S. and we have attended their meeting as well. So far it seems to be a good fit.

In conclusion the groups of zones 13D request a merger of 13D with 13H. Consultation with 13H has been made over several months. Zone 13 H is not opposed to the merger. Question from Gresh from Highpoint group. What would be the downside. Response: there was not downside identified.

General discussion included consultations with other groups and zones were there any positive or negative concerns about whether the DCM would be able to serve all the groups? Traffic consideration and demographic.

I'm Derek I'm an alcoholic DCM of 16 C and I arise in opposition to this motion. So, what I have come to conclude is that nowhere in the literature can I find that I'm limited as a DCM to only serve those groups that are attending my district meeting. I feel that in my district we have 18 groups of which 12 to 14 actively participate. I can tell you that is a lot of work. From what I understand this will create a district with 35-36 groups. The service manual states 20 is the limit where you can begin to split districts. so it seems to me that somewhere in the lines the number 20 seems to be a reasonable number of groups that DCM can serve So what I propose is that if I add all these up there are roughly 65 or 66 groups three districts approximately 21 or 22 groups per district that seems in alignment with what the service manual states So what I propose is that this body rejects this motion and send it back to the districts to consider looking at this from a geographical and possibly a boundary redraw to see how we could incorporate all of these groups within three districts.

Motion passed by 2/3's majority. No Minority opinion

THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA

Presentation on Hybrid Assembly – Communications Committee Chair – Janie C.:

Concept IV suggests that at all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional “right of participation,” allowing voting representation in proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge. To this end, Communications will present various options for Area 16 to consider making the Assembly available in a hybrid format to all who wish to participate regardless of limitations due to health or a group’s ability to fund the assembly participation of their trusted servants.

Consider 3 levels of hybrid format. Level 1 is view only, level 2 is a view and comment experience format. The level 3 would be a full participation model.

The forward to the 4th edition of the big book and it says while our literature has preserved the integrity of the message sweeping changes in our society as a whole like a pandemic who knew are reflected in new customs and practices within the fellowship. Taking advantage of technological advances for example members with computers or phones tablets can participate in meetings online and modern to modern.

From 25 people that approached the mic: The concerns brought to the mic were finances from the group. The opportunity to attend assembly could be taken away. Anonymity. Issues with password protection. Possibly consideration of voice only. We will lose participation and we will lose the connection to the assembly. How can we increase in personal participation? Zoom was used for necessity not for convenience. There is a difference between the assembly weekend and the business meeting. Members will lose out on what they receive from the assembly. The opportunity could save time. Experience from other assemblies that are hybrid increased participation. People who finally got a chance to see what this was like wanted to be here.

Quote from Bill W. Grapevine from 1960. He says nothing matters more to our future welfare than the manner in which we use the colossus of modern communication. Used unselfishly and well it can produce results surpassing our present imagination. Remember Traditions 3 and 5. Will reduce sales at the grapevine table. Some delegates have stated that it did reduce attendance. We will be able to reach those with disabilities. AA saved my life. Service changed it. The energy of in-person service attracts more service. Zoom will dilute participation. It would be nice to have options. How do we get a pulse of those that cannot attend? If nobody attends in person, what will they record? Attraction rather than promotion. We need to meet people where they are.

The majority has voted to approve the communications committee to proceed with hybrid meetings research.

Approval of New Area Committee Chairs & Co-Chairs: Corrections, Grapevine-LaVina, Treatment and Accessibilities

Communications Committee: Janie C. as Chair and Amy B. as Co-Chair

Grapevine/La Vlna Committee: Mitch M. as Chair and Haley B. as Co-Chair and Li Vlna Co-Chair Anpour Martinez

Corrections Committee: Dawn U. as Chair and Brad R. as Co-Chair

Treatment Committee: Don K. as Chair and Claire P. as Co-Chair

All approved

General Sharing

Chris L. GSR of the Clarkston 12 step group. Our bank that

has our group accounts notified us that the group must be registered with the state of Georgia. Todd B. referred member to the website and will follow up directly. Also advised how to obtain an EIN.

Jimmy L. GSR from 13L – Advised that the 12 & 12 was altered in step 4 & 6. Member was advised how this was an advisor action at 71st GSO Advisory. There are proposed agenda items being presented back to the advisory committee currently. Advised further details about the Round Robin Table.

Beth R. GSR in 13E. – Advised we remove the back row of the meeting.

Sule Co-Chair for the Hispanic Women’s Workshop for AA in Georgia. Thank you for your support in the 1st workshop. We are here to advise there will be another workshop for 2023. It will be October 7th, 2023. On Feb 5th we will elect the theme and logo. Flyers will be provided at the next assembly.

Paula our Spanish translator – The GSR for a newgroup “El Preámbulo”, “The Preamble” The first women’s group in Spanish in our area. We meet Sat & Sun from 3:30 to 4:30 at 1160 Alpharetta St in Roswell Ga. Then Tus & Thurs vis Zoom.

David J. Thompson Group GSR – Advised to follow up with David M. the Office Committee Chair.

GSR Carl from Triangle 13B motion to adjourn David J. Thompson Group GSR seconded.

Adjourn with Lord’s Prayer (Spanish & English)



THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA



70th Georgia State Prepaid Convention

Augusta
GEORGIA

October 20th - 22nd, 2023

Augusta Marriott at the Convention Center

2 Tenth Street, Augusta, GA 30901

706-722-8900

A.A. Speakers

Rich B., Ocean City, MD

Aaron Z., Mololla, OR

Diane M., Largo, FL

Al-Anon Speaker

Keylor H., Augusta, Georgia

Activities

Fellowship Dinner

Motorcycle Run

Disc-Golf Tournament

Golf Tournament

**Costs to be determined*

Workshops, Discussion Meetings & Other Activities

Name _____ Email address _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ Home Group _____

Please check affiliation: AA _____ Al-Anon _____ Alateen _____ Guest _____

Out of State Registration AA, Al-Anon & Guest \$25.00 Alateen \$10.00

Make Checks Payable to: 70th Prepaid Convention

Mail Registration to: PO Box 211711, Martinez GA, 30908

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www.aageorgia.org