

DELEGATE / delegate@aageorgia.org

Confidential for members

March/April 2024

Volume 60, Numbers 3-4

Building Enthusiasm

Liz W.

Area 16 Delegate

A flurry of activity is upon us, and April is coming fast. I have been assigned to the Conference Committee for Grapevine/La Vina. I knew that the Grapevine had many things going on, but there have still been surprises at every turn. Looking into the past Conference Advisory Actions and the history of the committee has taught me much about how our "International Journal" has developed throughout the years. To look at it from its humble beginnings of an idea tossed out to a few fellow members in someone's living room to Grapevine/La Vina apps, podcasts, and Instagram pages, is truly amazing. What a journey we are on watching this thing grow and bloom.

I'm just returning from the January Georgia State Service Assembly and what a rush. Assembly never fails to ignite my enthusiasm for service to Alcoholics Anonymous. It is so won-

derful seeing so many of you that I seldom, if ever, see anywhere else. I attended the Saturday night Grapevine/La Vina workshop at **Assembly**, and it was such a good time. I haven't laughed like that in a while. There's just something about laughter and fellowship that does my heart good. In fact, any event where I get to spend time with fellow members of Alcoholics Anonymous does that for me. Our PI/CPC chair, Karen A., talked about the membership survey. You can find all the information from the 2022 survey on aa.org under the "Inside AA" tab.

I want to extend a warm and heartfelt congratulations to Mark G. who the GSRs elected as your new Alternate Delegate. He has really hit the ground running. Mark now has three months less time than I did to get prepared for the conference. It is so important that the Alternate Delegate be as prepared as the Delegate, as we never know what life will throw our way. The quantity of information that is sent to us can seem daunting, but I

have learned how to break it down into chunks. Having balance between what I need to do for you and what I need to do for myself has become a part of daily life. Honestly, it has created pockets of serenity that carry me through each day. Plus, I have learned so much about a little magazine that over time has become one of our most vital tools for daily sober living.

For those of you who were in the Sunday morning business meeting, here is the link to the video that we were not able to show during my report. https://youtu.be/8RxMX_327c8

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ALTERNATE DELEGATE / altdelegate@aageorgia.org

I Will Do My Best

Mark G.

Area 16 Alternate Delegate

Thank you to everyone that voted for me. It was very humbling. I will do my very best to represent you.

Five minutes after the election, the publisher of the Georgia Message walked up to me with a reminder that I am responsible for writing an article for each issue. I was stunned to think of what I could possibly write about. So here goes.

The first meeting I attended was called SALT. This was a meeting of all the Alternate Delegates in the Southeastern region. I found out that our sister Areas are discussing the same issues we are talking about in Area 16. There is a lot of discussion about the Plain Language Big Book. There seems to be much concern about whether it will carry the same message as the current Big

Book. The good news is there is a Zoom meeting about this on February 25th from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. The meeting is limited to 1000 so get there early. Zoom info as follows: ID 867 2200 6265, Password 924686. The chair of the TABB subcommittee (Tools for Accessing the Big Book) will be there. TABB is a subcommittee of the Trustees Literature Committee. I am looking forward to attending.

I have used Zoom to attend numerous functions that have kept me abreast of what is happening at GSO. The most recent was on the 73rd General Conference Final report of 2023. It covered the agenda items that were approved at the 2023 General Service Conference. The cool thing was that the chairs of the committees were in attendance.

The General Service Board treasurer was in attendance, and we got to ask questions. He took the time to

discuss the revenue shortfalls for 2023. The interesting thing was what he had to say about literature sales. In the past he said our profit from literature sales was about 60 %. Currently they have fallen to about 50 %. He attributed that to the increasing cost of publishing literature. That reduction is even with the recent price increase. The difference can only be made up by group contributions which have yet to return to pre-Covid levels. Certainly something to think about.

I have used Zoom meetings for Concept Studies with our own Southeastern Regional Trustee. The best part is I got to meet other **Trustees** from all over the country. Amazingly there were several Class A (nonalcoholic) Trustees in the meeting. Their passion for AA was infectious. People who are not dependent

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TREASURER / treasurer@aageorgia.org

January Success

Todd B.

Area 16 Treasurer

It was great to see such a large turnout at the Georgia State Service Assembly in January. I can't believe it is already February. I look back at what a great year 2023 was for me, even with crutches and the knee scooter. When I look back over sobriety, I can see that the peaks have always overlapped with increased participation and service in **Alcoholics Anonymous**. There have also been many good years of accomplishment while trying to be the best AA I could be. However, the best years of my life have undoubtedly been the years when I stepped out of my comfort zone and took another service position in AA.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as Treasurer, and Secretary last year as well, and I am even more grateful that Kirby is here to be the

Secretary now. I hope all the Georgia AA groups will announce that the positions for Secretary and Treasurer will be open for nominations at the May assembly. I would also like to encourage people to push themselves to step up to the challenge. If I can do it, then there certainly are plenty of able-bodied people in Georgia that can do it.

The state is in a good financial position this year. We are off to a good start and have met our obligations for January. We are seeing cost increases affect our office expenses and literature costs. As discussed in the January Assembly, we have a delicate balance between expenses and income. I would like to ask the groups to contribute more frequently, if possible. That would help us make

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SECRETARY / secretary@aageorgia.org

Spiritual Relief

Kirby M.

Area 16 Secretary

Another winter Service Assembly has come and gone and just like that we are well into the new year. As I begin to anticipate the arrival of spring and the renewal that it symbolizes for the world, I can't help but be reminded of the *spiritual* renewal that must take place inside of every alcoholic who wishes to live a life in which they can be happy, joyous, and free. Though it doesn't seem like it, it wasn't so long ago that I would stumble (quite literally at times) into every new season of life. Trudging along and dragging behind me every hurt, resentment, fear, and the like from the previous seasons. Never realizing how detrimental my refusal to let go was to my emotional and spiritual sobriety. It was for this very reason that when I entered the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous that I remained so sick for a time. That I was without a doubt spiritually dead.

I don't know about you but surrender and quit were not in this alcoholic's vocabulary. Even after admitting my powerlessness over alcohol and starting this beautiful journey into recovery,

I struggled in those early days with the painful but necessary purging that comes from taking a spiritual inventory. Oh, surrender and quit weren't in my vocabulary but run and deflect certainly were.

I thought that I could escape the discomfort of turning my will over simply by omitting certain items from my house cleaning. I would find out the hard way that only a searching and fearless renewal of mind, body, and soul would do. And man was it uncomfortable! I had worn my resentments and fears and hurts like a suit of armor for so long that the shedding of that armor felt as though the skin were being ripped from my very being. It was painful but oh so freeing.

What I didn't realize at the time was how unbearably heavy those resentments were. How the refusal to let them go made me spiritually immobile. Nothing new could flow in until I became willing to release the stinking relics of my past. I stand here today, in anticipation and excitement for what is yet to come, all because I became willing to let go and surrender completely and for that I am grateful.

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 68
Macon, GA 31202

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

Upload Your Story or Art

Mitch B., Chair

Haley W., Co-Chair

Amparo M., La Viña Chair

Area 16 Grapevine / La Viña Committee

Grapevine, "your meeting in print," is also your meeting on the Web. Why not share? We're always accepting submissions of art or text, and you need no prior publishing experience. All it takes is a little **willingness** and a desire to share.

Read the [guidelines](#) for submitting. Check our [Editorial Calendar for upcoming special topics](#).

GRAPEVINE EDITORIAL CALENDAR 2024

SEPT: Young & Sober (Release of the New GV & LV Apps!) (stories due March 15, 2024) Did you come into AA at an early age? What was that like? What were the challenges? Do you go to Young People's AA (YPAA) meetings, dances or conferences? How have they helped you?

OCT: Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) (stories due April 15, 2024) Have you participated in CPC service (providing doctors, therapists, clergy, lawyers, teachers, parole officers

and other professionals' information about AA)? Did a professional help you find your way to AA because of CPC service work? Are you a professional who found out about AA from members doing CPC work?

NOV: Classic Grapevine - Our favorite stories from the AA Grapevine Story Archive.

DEC: Remote Communities (stories due June 15, 2024) Do you live far from AA meetings? Are you a loner? Stationed far away? Do you have a language or cultural barrier? Are you homebound? Do you use online meetings? Is it difficult to find an AA meeting where you live? Tell us how you stay sober. Are you involved in Remote Community service?

Sober Holidays: (stories due June 15, 2024) December is a great time of year to reach out to alcoholics and help others. What are the ways you stay sane and grateful during the holidays and New Year's? How do you navigate holiday parties and family gatherings? Share your best sober holiday stories.

PI/CPC /

picpc@aageorgia.org

A Word from PI/CPC

Karen A., Chair

Tod P., Co-Chair

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

Thank you to everyone that attended the January 2024 **Georgia** State Service Assembly. It was great to see you there. In our Saturday morning workshop we spoke about affiliation and showed an example of a flier, or rather a bad example of a flier, that came from a different state. We will further discuss affiliation in the future and how to avoid the pitfalls.

We are currently working on a presentation of the History of AA Surveys. We are also developing a Getting Started in PI/CPC Service Kit for new District and group representatives. Hopefully, both will be out soon.

We look forward to seeing you at the May Assembly and our future workshops.

Alternate Delegate

Continued from Page 1

on the program to save their lives but are willing to give of their time and energy to see that it is there for you and me.

I spoke to the Chair of the 71st Prepaid Convention in Jekyll Island. That will be the weekend of October 17th to the 20th. There are still rooms available, and all speakers have been confirmed. At the last Prepaid Convention in Jekyll Island, I really enjoyed the sunrise meetings. Make sure you don't miss those, and I hope to see you there.

I look forward to meeting you all at Cluster Forums, Service Assemblies and hopefully at District meetings.



Delegate

Continued from Page 1

I am aware that you can't just click on it while it is in print, but you should be able to on the digital version. I have also put it in the Delegate's Report on the website, aageorgia.org.

Your positive response to the new segment at our Assembly was heartwarming. Debi is already working on bringing things together for "lunch with the delegate". We are looking to have food available from 11am until 1pm on Saturday at the Assembly, hopefully starting in May 2024. I will keep you informed as things unfold with that.

By the time this issue of the Message is printed, the final agenda items for the conference will be set. All the background materials will have been distributed to your DCMs to be shared with the group representatives. We are all preparing for the DCM **Pre-Conference** meeting in Macon on March 30th. It has been an interesting adventure watching a proposed agenda item move through the conference process. Your voice matters! The Groups **ARE** the voice of Alcoholics Anonymous. For the delegate to carry the conscience of the fellowship in their Area, the delegate must be informed of that conscience. Each of your DCMs have been assigned to one of the following committees: Literature, Grapevine/Archives, Agenda/Report & Charter, PI/CPC, Policy/Admissions/Trustees, Treatment and Accessibilities/Correctional Facilities, Finance/International Conventions & Regional Forums. The DCMs will be getting with the groups in their districts to get feedback about the agenda items for the committee they are working on. Please speak up. We really do want to hear from you.

Thank you so much for the honor of serving as your Area 16 Delegate to the 74th General Service Conference. I look forward to everything this experience has to offer.

Treatment & Accessibilities treatment@aageorgia.org

Getting Started

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

The most common question we get asked at the Treatment Committee is “my sponsor suggested that I get involved in treatment service work; how do I get started?” In most cases, we figure out which district they are in and put them in touch with the district representative for treatment, or their DCM where there isn’t a representative. Another common question is “I just got elected as my district treatment representative, what do I do?” At some point, we all had no experience, but the purpose of the service structure and literature is to pass on our shared experience.

Our first suggestion for new treatment reps is to visit as many meetings as possible and ask the chairperson for a couple of minutes at the end of the meeting to talk with the group about your service position and

the opportunity for service. Over time, you will find your people. Our second suggestion is to compile a list of hospitals, treatment facilities, homeless shelters, assisted-living facilities, sober houses, and other institutions where we may find alcoholics. Once you know how many folks you have and what facilities are in your district, you can coordinate with your PI/CPC rep to meet with the administration of the facilities to determine how we might cooperate with them to carry our message to their clients.

How can we make sure that the message of A.A. is accessible to every person who wants help? The Accessibilities Committee works with groups and districts to make AA more accessible to all. If you have an accessibilities question, please reach out to us.

We are currently planning to have our annual Area 16 Treatment/ Accessibilities **Workshop** this Spring. Keep an eye out for a date and time announcement.

CORRECTIONS / corrections@aageorgia.org

Carrying the AA Message by Mail

**Dawn U., Chair
Amber T., Co-Chair
Area 16 Corrections Committee**

The Forward to the Second Edition of the Big Book states “New groups started up and it was found, to the astonishment of everyone, that AA’s message could be transmitted in the mail as well as by word of mouth.” This is just as true today as it was in 1955. People in custody love mail and look forward to mail call every day. What we often take for granted is a highlight of a person in custody’s day. The corrections **committee** in Georgia has two service commitments that involve an AA member sharing their experience, strength and hope with another through the mail. You can do this service work from the comfort of your own home.

The first is the Pre-Release Contact Program in which an outside AA

member corresponds with a person in custody by mail for about six months or less. The member then meets the person after their release at a few meetings. The member basically helps the inmate understand Alcoholics Anonymous and shows the person in custody where the spiritual tools can be found. The second service by mail is through the Correspondence Program in which the member writes a person in custody in a prison facility on a long-term basis sharing recovery. The person in custody will be matched with you by GSO and will be about two states away. You do not have to use your address when writing. You can ask to use your correction committee, home-group or District’s PO Box to correspond with the person in custody. We can only keep what we have by giving it away freely. The stories are legion in which inmates found the AA program through the mail.

ARCHIVES/ archives@aageorgia.org

What’s In Store from Archives

**Drew H., Chair,
John J., Co-Chair
Area 16 Archives Committee**

It was great to see everyone at our first Area 16 Assembly for 2024. During our archives committee workshops, we discussed several ideas to look forward to in the next two years. We will be doing another presentation in mid-March, titled “How AA Made Its Way Into Correctional Facilities”. This is a joint venture with your Area 16 Corrections Committee. A special thanks to Dawn and Amber for this opportunity to show how AA helped to change the incarcerated hopeless alcoholics, and the impact AA made through the entire Department of Corrections.

Throughout the upcoming year we will keep our theme of “How Can We Use Archives To Better Reach The **Newcomer**”. We asked for historical topics about AA you would like to see in future presentations, and the feedback was excellent. Future presentations include the beginning of our ‘Third Legacy and General Service Conference’ and ‘The Non-Alcoholic Friends Of AA’ for later this summer. These will all be added to the historical presentation library on our aa-georgia.org web page Archives Committee Presents tab. Every presentation we have made in the last two years can be viewed and further, due to the efforts of Damon E., they can now be downloaded as well. Damon shared that our visual library is being viewed from all over the world.

We have so many great plans to bring attention back to our archives room at the Area office such as digitizing reel to reel audio tapes and in person workshops. If you want to help us out in this department, or if you want us to come to your home group or district to do anything with Archives, please contact John or me. Email us anytime at archives@aageorgia.org.



Sobriety In Any Language

**Amy B., Chair,
Derek W., Co-Chair
Area 16 Communications
Committee**

AA is available to all who have a desire to stop drinking, and alcoholism certainly has no barriers, linguistic or otherwise.

District 17, Area 16's Spanish linguistic district, provides many services to its members, and at the District 17 Cluster Forum in November 2023, translation was provided in both English and Spanish. It was an incredible experience as the AA message was carried in both languages. When asked for volunteers to assist in translating archives material, nearly the entire audience pointed to one person, Paula M., who provides audio translation services at many Area 16 functions. However, is one person enough for this big responsibility?

At SSAASA, also in November 2023, a past General Service Trustee stated that if translation is not provided, then those who speak that language generally do not attend. The www.aageorgia.org website mission statement is "Provide information, tools, and services to meet

the needs of AA members, trusted servants, and the public in a simple, intuitive, secure, and **multi-lingual** manner via a web presence which is platform independent, measurable, and aligned with AA Traditions and Concepts".

How well are we fulfilling the multi-lingual part of that statement? Is just one person enough to handle audio translation for all the Area 16 functions? Is there a Spanish edition of The Georgia Message? What about agendas, or business meeting minutes, or function notices and flyers? What about workshops in Spanish?

AA World Services provide many items in multiple languages and platforms. La Vina is a great example of how to carry the AA message to the Spanish speaking alcoholic.

The Communications Committee is responsible for translation services, written and verbal, for Area 16, and **WE NEED YOUR HELP**. If you or anyone you know is qualified and willing to provide translation services, we want to talk to you! Please contact us at communications@aageorgia.org. Thank you for your service.

the best decisions for the area. The one-time annual contribution impacts our area's ability to make the best possible decisions.

We also did not make any contributions to our Prudent Reserve for 2023. We paid our bills and met our obligations, however, there was nothing left over to put in the prudent reserve. As we face the same financial headwinds in 2024, please ask your home group to contribute as much as they can to our area and local service structures. I am sure GSO would appreciate any additional assistance as well.

Thank you for being an active part of our Area. I look forward to growing together again this year.

THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA IS PUBLISHED BY AREA 16

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La Viña Marzo/Abril

**Amparo M., Presidenta La Viña
Área 16 Comité Grapevine / La Viña**

¡Hola, compañeros y compañeras, me da gusto compartirles las noticias de la viña.

AAGrapevine, Inc. y la Conferencia de Servicios Generales

- AAGrapevine, Inc., es parte de la Conferencia a través de la Junta Directiva, con tres votos del personal incluyendo a La Viña, además de la dedicación del Comité de Grapevine y La Viña.

- En 1986 la **Conferencia**, a través de una acción recomendable, reconoció a AA Grapevine, Inc. (Grapevine y La Viña) como la revista internacional de Alcohólicos Anónimos.

- La Viña es un servicio a la comuni-

dad que genera ingresos y cuyos gastos son en parte completados por el Fondo de Servicios Generales. Libros y productos del Grapevine y La Viña 12 libros publicados en español + 8 e-books / 11 Discos compactos en español + 10 Descargas de Audio / Calendario y agenda de bolsillo en inglés, español, y francés. Ayudando a La Viña • La Viña pertenece a la comunidad de AA.

- Contribuye enviando tus historias, fotografías e ilustraciones, así como tu opinión por correo postal, electrónico o nuestra página web.

- Participa en el Proyecto "Lleve el Mensaje" de Grapevine y La Viña; éste llega a alcohólicos en centros de rehabilitación, cárceles, y tu grupo base. Visita aalavina.org/lleve-el-mensaje para más información.

- Conviértete en un Representante de La Viña. Visita aalavina.org/

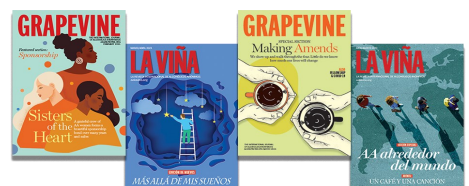
[servicio](#) para más información.

VISITA NUESTRA PÁGINA AALAVINA.ORG MUCHO MÁS QUE UNA REVISTA ¿Necesitas ayuda con tus suscripciones o pedidos? Para cualquier consulta, por favor comuníquese por teléfono al 1-800-640-8781 (En Estados Unidos y Canadá), 1-570-567-0437 (Internacional), 1-570-322-2063 (Fax) o envía un email a:

preguntas@aagrapevine.org

Cita Diaria La Viña Enero 29

"Busco fortaleza no para ser superior a mis hermanos, sino para combatir a mi peor enemigo: yo mismo".



CALENDAR of EVENTS

Southwest Cluster Forum

Moultrie

February 24

Includes (1A,1B,2A,2B)

Atlanta Intergroup

Virtual

March 3

30th Flint River Round Up

Albany

March 8-10

Atlanta Men's Workshop

Rock Eagle

March 22-24

DCM Pre-Conference Meeting Macon

March 30

11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

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 68, Macon, Ga. 31202

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.

New Groups

District 13 Zone J

Thorns and Roses Group
Sacred Space
1827 Powers Ferry Rd
Atlanta GA 30339
Tuesday 7:00 p.m.
Open Women

District 15 Zone B

No Name Group
Good Samaritan Cathlic Church
55 N Church St
Ellijay GA 30540
Tuesday 5:30 p.m.

Things We Cannot Change

Ward R

Passed – August 22, 2023
Sobriety Date - April 22, 1976
Home Group – Wayne County
Group

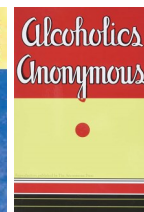
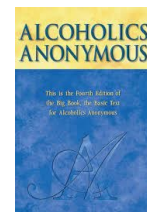
Judy S

Passed – December 26, 2023
Sobriety Date - September 9,
1988
Home Group – Wayne County
Group

***I am responsible,
when anyone,
anywhere, reaches
out for help,***

***I want the hand of
AA always to be
there, and for that***

I am responsible.



THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA

Birthday Contributions

Unknown

Marylou W - January 26, 2019

District 7 Zone A

The Surrender Group
Diane Mitchell – January 1,
2010

District 8

Baldwin County Group
Jocelyn B – January 1, 2010

District 10 Zone D

First Things First Group
David J - November 19, 2000

District 11 Zone B

Covington Group
Tom H - January 10, 1984

AA Solutions Group

Jim Y - October 31, 1994

The Georgia Message Committee Would Like To Hear From You, The Fellowship!

In order to better serve our fellowship, the Message committee would like your feedback.

- Is there something you really like in the Message?
- Is there something that isn't your favorite in the Message?
- Is there anything you would like to be included in the Message?

Well now is the time to let your voices be heard. We have created a quick survey about the Georgia Message, and we want to hear from our fellowship.

Please help us improve the Georgia Message by filling out this quick survey at <https://forms.gle/LTCeGxPXgAgL2aJS8> or scan the QR code below.

Please note, that this survey is anonymous, to allow our committee to better serve our fellowship.

The Georgia Message



Feedback Survey

Fun in Sobriety!

Read the Georgia Message Trusted Servant articles and look for **bolded** words to find the words that are within the Word Search.

Have Fun!

Georgia Message Word Search

MZIQYMAPGUYFDDYTWKUO
WUKFQLVTLCEVPOJRSJW
CILTNTTIQQUXQYOVWSVCO
AOGTGEZWILLINGNESSGR
EAMKIBWABMHFPJJIMMEK
BSIMTLYCTHIYRWRQMCOS
DIZDIAILOVBUEHAGJHRH
MRPUXTONCMKACOSQZQGO
TFQOROTOGDEVOJSGJCIP
RFSEEDYDECUCRNTEENMAC
ULSYBPOVESAIIFLMVAOEO
SUQPSZKAJIILEYBBASKN
TRIPIAMNHEJRYLSGCKF
EUWKPRVEDMJJEGYDKMFE
EGCMQITIDYLLNPGOGWIR
SBUTBOBTQBTGCYHICUSE
YGZPLGEFUVGZERNJSLEN
HXUUFZKCOANQRAUAOBEC
CEOJXLTXIYLDQWSDGJLI
ALCOHOLICSANONYMOUSA

Last Editions Solution:

Georgia Message Word Search

HSVBCLDFFSEZVS
ICUNSPIRATIONWF
GTOZSKQVNTCZNS
HWOMHJMXMMGGYAF
EPPNMBABAERROSE
RIREKIMYPSSAAUSL
PNEWXLTKFSTPNEL
OKPCSLQTEAIEGMO
WCAOEWNJEGTVPBW
EAIMRLOSJEUIELS
RNDDEVLZONDDNOYH
FSNRISEBHNEDPOII
JJNVCOOEPLQGLKBP
EQHCENNRKFHXERI
IYALITERATUREVV

inspiration	Young People	Higher Power
Bill Wilson	literature	Grapevine
Committee	gratitude	Fellowship
Assembly	Pink Cans	Newcomer
Prepaid	Service	Message
Sober		

*Answer Key will be available next edition

THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA

Georgia State Service Assembly

Business Meeting Minutes

Sunday January 21, 2024

Pending Approval at the May 2024 BUSINESS MEETING

Meeting called to order/ Serenity Prayer: Tracy M., Area Chairperson

New Delegate Liz W. recognized and welcomed as Panel 74 Area 16 Delegate.

Delegate's Report

Good Morning, My name is Liz and I am an alcoholic. I would like to thank Tamera for all her help preparing paperwork, setting up the room, taking care of registration, selling literature, and printing out all of the directories for us. This is not an easy task, and she does it, and she makes it seem effortless.

We have a new part-time person working with Tamera. Please welcome Ashley. If you visit or call the office, I am sure you will have the chance to meet her or talk to her. She is doing a fabulous job, and we are fortunate to have her with us.

We will be electing a new alternate Delegate this morning, but until we do that, I have asked Debi K. to step in and take care of all the duties of the Alt Delegate. She has been gracious and willing to serve us during our time of transition, and I want to say how much I appreciate all of the work she has put in for us.

I also want to say how much we all appreciate how much effort Damon and the Web committee have put in to see to it that we have this assembly recorded.

Let's all thank Debi, Tamera, Ashley, and Damon for their service.

Panel 74 Delegate Committee Assignment

I received my committee assignment in mid-December. I am so excited to be a part of the Conference Committee for Grapevine/LaVina. There are so many fabulous new things happening with the Grapevine. It has branched out to be so much more than the monthly magazine that I was introduced to when I was newly sober in 1997. I have spent the last month getting acquainted with the AA Grapevine website, the new Grapevine app, the podcasts, the YouTube Channel, and the In-

stagram page.

The Grapevine Committee was formed in 1954. It is responsible for reviewing the development and circulation of the Grapevine at the individual and group level. Its members are invited to make suggestions and recommendations in any area of the Grapevine, including material and format.

The Grapevine App is doing very well. As of October 30th, there were 16,538 downloads, and 2327 subscriptions generating a net income of \$43,484.

The LaVina App had 596 downloads, and 70 subscriptions with a net income of \$831.

This App launched on September 1, so I will be interested to see where it stands after 6 months or a year. Already, Grapevine sits at #2 on the Apple top 200 list of Newspaper and Magazine App Charts.

Grapevine podcasts have had over 577,000 downloads.

Grapevine Instagram account has 10,900 followers, and LaVina has 1413 followers.

The YouTube channel has 11,900 subscribers, and 109 videos with 163,456 views.

Submit Your Story! Upcoming Topics...

1. **Annual Prison Issue** — Looking for stories of hope about AA in prisons and jails by incarcerated members and by those who bring meetings to them. Did you find AA in prison? What is sobriety like inside? Are you involved in correspondence service or prison sponsorship?

2. **Dating & Relationships** — Learning how to date in sobriety? How did it go? What were the challenges? Any sober tips? (Believe me, we all want to know!). Share what you've learned about having sober relationships. How is your marriage or relationship different now than when you were drinking? (stories due Feb. 15, 2024)

More upcoming topics: CPC Service stories & Remote Community stories.

Important: We're looking for stories of experience with each Step and each Tradition! (Pick a particular Step or Tradition and share your experience!) We also need your jokes!

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La Viña: Current Issue Spotlight:

This month's special section is "Nuevos en AA" (Newcomers in AA.)

Submit Your Story for Upcoming Issues:

1. March/April 2024: Cortos de La Viña (La Viña short stories.)
2. May/June: Recaidas (Relapse.)

A new book is expected out this April called "Our Twelve Steps" – a brand-new collection of stories from AA members about the joys and challenges of working the program's Twelve Steps of recovery.

La Vina has a new book scheduled to be out this Fall called: "Prayer and Meditation" —featuring powerful stories by members of Alcoholics Anonymous about the many ways they pray and meditate in their daily lives.

Please consider gifting a subscription to the Grapevine. There are those who cannot get to meetings, those who may be incarcerated and have limited or no meetings available, or those who cannot afford their own subscription. This simple service could make all the difference to someone still sick and suffering from alcoholism. As of October 30th, 1437 Carry the Message certificates have been processed.

International Convention

Make plans to attend the 2025 A.A. International Convention scheduled in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Vancouver will welcome A.A. members from around the world for the 2025 International Convention.

This will mark the 90th anniversary of the beginning of our Fellowship's founding.

The International Convention will take place from July 3 - 6, 2025, at the Vancouver Convention Centre and BC Place Stadium.

As the Convention approaches, you will find updates to the aa.org website with registration information.

There is an FAQ section in the middle of the page if you have questions or concerns about traveling to Canada.

Let's celebrate sobriety together in Vancouver in 2025!

The International conventions and regional forums committee recommended that a digital option be added to the 2025 international convention, providing anonymity protected, encrypted, digital access to the Friday night meeting (including the flag ceremony), and the Saturday and Sunday big meetings, at a fee to be determined. The flag ceremony itself will continue to be offered at no charge.

The committee encourages those from outside of Canada who may have issues from the past that could prevent them from crossing the border begin the process of taking care of those issues as soon as possible. The FAQ section on the web page will address some of these issues

Public Information

The PI Committee got a progress report on the Mesmerize Point PSA Distribution channel.

They are playing 6 different 30-second PSAs, in both English and Spanish in Doctor's offices and pharmacies.

This gives us about 11 million viewings monthly.

Digital Press Kit

Includes information about Alcoholics Anonymous is the U.S./Canada Service Structure. The goal of the press kit is to answer questions and provide information about Alcoholics Anonymous for the media, professionals, and the general public.

This kit includes the anonymity memo to the media, an overview of the membership survey results, an outline of our service structure, and one click connectivity to a variety of digital resources. Some of these resources include the meeting guide app, AAWS LinkedIn page, and the AA Grapevine YouTube channel, just to name a few. It will be a great resource in the Public Information outreach effort.

Digital Literature Behind the Walls

Conference-approved AAWS and Grapevine copyrighted eBooks and audiobooks are available on tablets and desktops in the various correctional settings in the U.S. and can now be accessed by people who are incarcerated and by the professionals who serve them. Thanks to the 7th tradition contributions of members, we have contracts with several vendors so we can provide literature at no cost to persons behind the walls. The Daily Reflections audiobook has been added to the available literature.

The publishing department is organizing a tablet

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demonstration so that staff members can better assist the fellowship and corrections professionals when they are confronted with issues trying to access the literature.

What can you do? Let correctional professionals know that we have contracts with many major tablet vendors. Literature is available in the “Recovery” section of the tablet.

Please contact corrections@aa.org for additional information.

Corrections

The committee reviewed recently collected shared experience on virtual meetings in correctional facilities and requested that staff develop a service piece for inclusion in the Corrections Kit.

The committee requested that a staff member attend the American Correctional Association

Conference in January 2024. A subcommittee was appointed to explore additional opportunities to share information about A.A. with corrections professionals.

Financials

AAWS FINANCIAL As of October 27, 2023	
Actual contributions \$6,559,954	2% less than this time last year
Gross literature sales \$9,997,774	23% more than this time last year (Due to higher purchases preceding price increase in April 2023)
Total Operating Expenses \$11,682,381 (This does not include depreciation)	10% more than this time last year

AAWS FINANCIAL As of October 27, 2023	
Literature gross margin is \$4,964,088 which is 3% more than last year. Cost of goods sold is \$5,107,384 which is up 5.1% over last year.	
After depreciation, and including non-operating revenue and expense, the overall deficit is \$608,142. This is better than the budgeted deficit of \$958,342	
Reserve Fund As of October 27, the net reserve fund balance is \$12,562,214, or 7.26 months of operating expenses.	

Cooperation with the Professional Community Work continues on the pamphlet for mental health professionals.

The LinkedIn page continues to inform profession-

als about A.A. and has seen a 50% increase in followers since July 2022 (over 3400 followers to date).

The committee looks forward to the CPC Service Cards being made available to the Fellowship in a digital format, with physical cards to be printed later this year.

Literature

The trustees Literature Committee is seeking stories from AA members with diverse backgrounds. This is in response to the 2022 Conference Advisory Action that the trustees, Literature Committee revise the pamphlet “Do You Think You’re Different?” to update the stories to represent greater diversity.

The suggested format for typed manuscripts is 500 -800 words, double spaced, in 12-point font. Handwritten manuscripts should be approximately 5-6 pages.

These are due before April 30, 2024. There is a QR code on the screen that will take you to a digital submission form. The email and link are also on the slide. I will include the email, the QR code, and the link in the delegate’s report that will be available on our website by the end of the month.

In response to a Committee Consideration from the 73rd General Service Conference (2023)

suggesting that trustees’ Literature Committee seek input from the Fellowship (including

but not limited to Area delegate feedback) regarding any possible future changes to

literature written by A.A.’s Founders, the trustees’ Literature committee agreed it would

be beneficial to gather shared experience from the Fellowship regarding this topic.

We would like to hear from you – the top of the triangle! While we hope that the suggested

questions will help to spark thoughtful sharing and discussion, please feel free to add

questions that we may not have thought of that you feel may best inform the discussion.

Most of all, we are grateful for and thank you for your participation.

The AAWS Highlights are back in print.

One of the challenges of the COVID pandemic was the suspension of printing the AAWS Highlights

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newsletter. But it is now back in production and will be distributed after each board meeting. The Highlights can also be accessed on the aa.org website under the Inside AA, "what's new" section. The Highlights offer consistent communication between the General Service Board and the Fellowship.

Regional Forum

Regional Forum events allow members throughout the service structure to exchange information. They bring together:

- The General Service Board
- A.A. World Services, Inc.
- A.A. Grapevine, Inc.
- The General Service Office and Grapevine staff
- A.A. members
- Newcomers to service
- Trusted servants

Started in 1975, these unique gatherings happen four times a year. Each forum occurs in one of the eight regions of the U.S. or Canada. The regional trustee, area delegates and GSO decide on the location and agenda for Regional Forums. Together, the forums coordinator at GSO, the local A.A. host contact, and the regional trustee coordinate the details of the Forum.

This year we will have the Southeast Regional Forum in Biloxi, MS, December 6-8. I will let you know when registration opens.

We've taken more than 100 of your most frequently asked questions and developed a central resource where you can access them, their answers, and links to related information. Over time this list will grow to include even more helpful, searchable information.

You can find the link to the FAQ page at the bottom of every web page on the aa.org site.

The literature committee reviewed a progress report regarding the development of a fifth edition of the book Alcoholics Anonymous. The committee discussed concerns related to the management of the substantial number of stories submitted by the fellowship and the involvement of additional readers to streamline the reading process. The committee agreed to establish a reading working group composed of members of the fellowship selected by

the committee and that working group members be required to sign a non-disclosure agreement to protect the integrity of the publishing process.

Box 4-5-9 is published quarterly by the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Subscriptions: Individual, \$3.50 per year; group, \$6.00 for each unit of 10 per year.

Check—made payable to A.A.W.S., Inc.—should accompany order.

To have issues delivered directly to your inbox, register your email on the A.A. Digital Subscription Service on GSO's Website.

I will attach a copy of the subscription form to the Delegates report for you.

Food Trucks (Whoohoo!)

I would like to propose something new at the May assembly. I was looking forward to getting to know you as your alternate delegate. However, that opportunity will be given to whomever you elect as your new alternate delegate later this morning. In an effort to get to know you all better, I would like to implement a new segment to the assembly weekend from 11:30 to 12:30 on Saturday's called "Lunch with the Delegate". I have asked Debi to look into options for food trucks, and she has been able to make those arrangements for us. We just need your input to see if this is something the body would support. This is not a motion; it is just a sense of the room to see if we should proceed with it. By a show of hands, how many of you would be interested in, and willing to support our efforts to bring in food trucks on Saturday for lunch at the assembly in May? If this works, it will be something we will continue to pursue as long as you are willing to support it.

Again, I appreciate this opportunity to serve you as your Delegate. Please feel free to contact me any time at the email or phone number provided.

Alternate Delegate's Report

Area 16 GSSA Jan. 21, 2024

Alt. Delegate's Report: Debi K.

Good morning. My name is Debi K and I am an alcoholic. I am grateful to serve as the

current Office Committee Chair. I will be giving the Alternate Delegate's report.

The topics I will be covering include: What are Cluster Forums? 2024 Cluster Forums

theme, regions, and locations; a review of the 2024 Area 16 Functions List, an update

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on Prepaid Conventions; and an update on the DCM Outreach Program.

Cluster Forums

Cluster Forums are sharing sessions designed to enhance and widen communication

among AA members, service and potential service people, and representatives of the

Groups, Districts, and Area. A Cluster Forum is not a formal decision-making body, thus

no formal actions come about as a result of a Forum. Rather, Cluster Forums are

gatherings that provide a unique opportunity to share valuable experiences, ask

questions, and spark new ideas. There is no registration fee for Cluster Forums. The

expenses are covered by the Districts of each Region and through "passing the basket"

at each Forum. The locations and agenda for Cluster Forums are worked out jointly by

the DCMs of each Forum. Flyers for each Cluster Forum should be forwarded to the

Area Office as soon as possible for listing in the "Georgia Message of AA". There are

four (2) Cluster Forums held each year in different regions of the state, on a rotating

basis. 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 2024 General Service Conference, Area 16 Cluster Forums, and the

2024 Prepaid Convention is "Connecting with Love, Unity and Service". Workshop topic

is "Responsibility in Service: When and How to Give;" and presentation topics include:

Safety Throughout the Structure in our Fellowship

1728 Sponsorship (12x12x12)

Overcoming the Barriers to Participation

Cluster Forums for 2024 will be located in the following four clusters during the months

of February, June, August, and November.

Area Functions

The 2024 Area 16 Functions List was given to each DCM. If you want a full copy of all

activities throughout the year, please ask your DCM for the full list. I will be providing

information on Area 16 and GSO sponsored events from now until our next Assembly in

May.

Prepaid Conventions

The 70 th Georgia Prepaid in Augusta was an enormous success and very well attended.

I have heard nothing but positive comments about the convention. Thank you to Fran

and the Prepaid Committee for all their hard work and for hosting a fabulous event. Fran

will be giving her final report this morning.

Our next Prepaid Convention is on Jekyll Island October 18-21 at the Jekyll Island

Convention Center. If you have not yet done so, please go to aageorgia.org to register.

Jimmy will be giving a report later this morning.

District 6 will be hosting the 72 nd Prepaid Convention in Columbus and the committee is

already hard at work to prepare for that convention in 2025.

This morning, we will be taking bids for the 73 rd Prepaid Convention (2026). According

to the Georgia AA Service Manual p. 34, "In January, the D.C.M. makes his/her district's

bid for the convention two years in advance. In this presentation should be included the

exact dates, location, names of hotels or motels, rates of lodging and meals, capacities

of auditoriums and other pertinent information including the desirability of holding the convention in their particular district."

It is my understanding that District 16C will be making a bid. We will vote on the location

at our May Assembly. Thank you to District 16C for their willingness to host our Georgia

Prepaid Convention.

DCM Outreach

The DCM Outreach program was started because of

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the communications audit and our Area 16 “Your Voice Matters” activity to provide more support to our DCMs. The goal is to strengthen our service structure overall by increasing involvement and participation and improving communication by supporting our DCMs. We have a team of veteran DCMs who are available to provide coaching to newer DCMs to reach out to inactive Districts, provide guidance for Cluster Forums, and serve as a contact to answer questions.

Our last meeting was via Google Meet on January 8, 2024. We welcomed new committee members for 2024 and reviewed the process for accessing General Service Conference Materials. Our next meeting is scheduled for Feb. 12 th and our newly elected Alternate Delegate will participate.

Our DCM Outreach Committee Members include:

2024 DCM Outreach Committee Members		
Region	DCM	District/Zone
Southwest	Dani Barnard	1A
Southeast	Jane Day	3D
West Central	Tiffany Turner	10D
East Central	Ken Payton	8
Northwest	Megan Sahnger	14C
Northeast	Heather Davis-Ogles	16C
District 13	Wally Lewis	13A

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We are grateful for their service. We can see the impact they are making through

increased attendance at DCM meetings and assemblies! Thank you!

Thank you for the opportunity to be of service.

Secretary's Report: Kirby M.

DCMs- 40

Alternate DCMs-20

District Secretary/ Treasurer- 1

GSRs-225

Alternate GSRs-53

Group Secretary/Treasurer-33

Grapevine Reps-11

Treatment Reps-7

Corrections Reps-6

PI/CPC Reps-5

Communications Reps-3

Archives Reps-5

Members-at-Large- 45

Members virtual-23

Total-477

Group Updates/Changes: In the folders that you received from your DCMs you should have a blue spiral notebook which is the updated area directory. Please make sure you are keeping your district and group information up to date by going to aageorgia.org and adding any changes.

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.

Office Hours: 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.

New Post office information: GSSA P.O.Box 68 Macon, GA 31202

Nominations for Area Secretary and Treasurer are happening at the May Assembly!

Nominees will be asked to turn in their service resumes within a week after the assembly.

If you are nominated, and have not already received a service resume template, please contact Kirby M. at secretary@aageorgia.org

Once again, I want to thank you all for the amazing privilege of serving Area 16.

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One Slide 2023 Summary (Favorable)

Total Expenses Worksheet (Favorable)			
Item	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	Difference
Total COGS	\$ 70,714.46	\$ 65,662.50	\$ 5,051.96
Total Expenses	\$ 200,373.77	\$ 235,729.24	\$ (35,355.47)
Total Other Expense (Lit Ship)	\$ 4,564.19	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 364.19
Total Expenses	\$ 275,652.42	\$ 305,591.74	\$ (29,939.32)

2023 NET Income Summary (Favorable)			
Item	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	Difference
Total Income	\$ 276,675.42	\$ 276,828.52	\$ (153.10)
Total Expenses	\$ 275,652.42	\$ 305,591.74	\$ (29,939.32)
Net Income (Favorable)	\$ 1,023.00	\$ (28,763.22)	\$ 29,786.22

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2024 Budget Snapshot

2024 Budget Snapshot			
GSSA Account Description	2023	2024	Difference
Expenses	\$235,729.24	\$252,782.99	\$ 17,053.75
Income	\$206,966.01	\$231,161.36	\$ 24,195.35
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ (28,763.23)	\$ (21,621.63)	\$ 7,141.60

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2023 Group Contributions: Favorable

AREA 16 Percentage of Group Contributions Year End 2023				
Area of Contribution	Total Dollars	% of Groups Contributing	Improvement % over SEPT Assembly	Improvement % over Jan Assembly
7th Tradition	\$164,984.21	56%	7%	20%
Pre-Paid	\$41,266.85	34%	5%	14%

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Budget Notes

Committee Budget Notes for 2024			
number	Committee	Amount	Notes
1	PI/CPC	\$ 600.00	increase for additional travel, parking, expenses and adding another conference annually. increase conferences to 51000 annual total. Includes: Pre-Paid, ATL Roundup, Spanish Conference, and several grapeathons and La Vifa events. Add additional \$200 for supplies.
2	Grapevine	\$ 1,200.00	
3	Corrections	\$ 600.00	Host an annual area corrections workshop additional conference and workshop attendance and travel
4	Communications	\$ 600.00	
Total Committee Increases 2024		\$ 3,000.00	
GSSA Office Expenditures			
number	Committee	Amount	Notes
1	Wages Increase	\$ 7,683.75	Increases in hours, wages
2	Utilities	\$ 1,000.00	Increase based on 2023 actuals
3	Publishing	\$ 1,000.00	Increase based on 2023 actuals
4	Computers	\$ 3,120.00	Old Computers out of warranty. Service costs ↑
5	Postage	\$ 1,000.00	Increase based on 2023 actuals
Total Recommended GSSA Office Increases		\$ 13,803.75	
Total Budget Increases for 2024		\$ 16,803.75	

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GSSA Account Balances

GSSA Cash Register	
Checking/Savings	
Petty Cash	\$ 300.00
Grapevine Petty Cash	\$ 150.00
Prudent Reserve	\$ 241,200.29
GSSA Office Account	\$ 35,456.56
Total Checking/Savings	\$ 277,106.85

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Pre-Paid Accounts

PrePaid Account Balances	
Account	Amount
Checking&Savings	\$ 160,702.64
PrePaid Account as # of Conferences	
Estimated 2023 Budget	\$ 51,000.00
# of Conferences	3.15

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Income Reporting: Favorable

2023 Income			
	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	Difference
Ordinary Income	\$ 178,891.31	\$ 193,828.52	\$ (14,937.21)
Literature Income	\$ 97,784.11	\$ 83,000.00	\$ 14,784.11
Total Income	\$ 276,675.42	\$ 276,828.52	\$ (153.10)

Expense Reporting Summary: Favorable

Expenses Worksheet			
Item	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	Difference
Office Committee	\$ 7,383.96	\$ 15,922.00	\$ (8,538.04)
Service Committees	\$ 25,831.52	\$ 47,190.00	\$ (21,358.48)
Assembly	\$ 39,697.63	\$ 42,172.00	\$ (2,474.37)
GSSA Office	\$ 127,459.86	\$ 130,445.24	\$ (2,985.38)
Literature	\$ 66,026.27	\$ 61,462.50	\$ 4,563.77
Total Expenses	\$ 266,399.24	\$ 297,191.74	\$ (30,792.50)

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2	Grapevine	\$ 1,200.00	Conference, and several grapeathons and La Vifa events. Add additional \$200 for supplies.
3	Corrections	\$ 600.00	Host an annual area corrections workshop additional conference and workshop attendance and travel
4	Communications	\$ 600.00	
Total Committee Increases 2024		\$ 3,000.00	
GSSA Office Expenditures			
number	Committee	Amount	Notes

Area Chair Report- Tracy M.

Past Trusted Servants Recognized

Approval of minutes from September 2023 Assembly.

There were three errors that were in our minutes that needed to be corrected.

First was on the clarification of delegate qualifications. The motion that was listed in the minutes was not the correct motion.

The correct motion which was voted on and passed at the September Assembly and is now in the minutes as they are edited is;

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In the Georgia AA service manual on page 18: *Replace the wording and number 5 with the following;*

Be a current second year DCM or have previously completed two years as DCM, actively engaged in group, district, and area affairs.

The second correction was that after the motion was made regarding the posting of office committee meeting minutes the chairperson asked if there was a motion to decline to consider. This was left out of the minutes. It has now been added to the edited minutes that the chairperson did ask if there was a motion to decline to consider.

The final correction was in regards to the motion that was made regarding coins for cons reporting and it stated in the minutes that an ad hoc committee was appointed to review the motion. The motion was tabled to be addressed at the January Assembly. Since the motion was not a manual change there was no ad hoc committee appointed.

Show of hands asked to approve the minutes. Minutes approved unanimously.

70th Annual Prepaid Convention Final Report: Fran

The 70th Annual Prepaid Convention was held this past October in Augusta, GA.

The official prepaid report will be printed with all financials prior to the next assembly. The number of people registered to attend the convention was 1,349. Actual people in attendance was estimated to be approximately 1,100. The Fellowship dinner and other recreation events were a hit! An estimated 220 people were in attendance at the dinner. There were 44 people who played in the golf tournament, over 60 motorcycles participated in the north ga motorcycle ride, and the halloween party and costume party were well attended.

Overall Estimated Cost- \$51,000

Originally budgeted-\\\$58,000

Coffee! The hotel served a total of 120 gallons of coffee. Each gallon cost \$74 bringing the total cost of coffee for the weekend to \$8,854.

Final financial report will be given by Todd B. during the May Assembly

71st Prepaid Convention Report: Jimmy M.

2024 Ga Prepaid Convention Report

1/21/24

The 71st Ga State Pre-Paid Convention will be held Oct. 18th, 19th, and 20th, 2024 on Jekyll Island. District 3 is honored to be able to host the convention this year. As most of you know, we hosted the 68th Prepaid convention, but due to COVID, we had to hold the convention virtually. We are excited to have another opportunity to be able to host the convention and look forward to seeing everybody in October.

The theme for this year's convention is "Connecting with Love, Unity, and Service"

The convention will be held at the Jekyll Island Convention Center, which is a great facility. We are planning a walk thru next week to re-evaluate space. The projected expense for the Convention Center is significant. The Food and Beverage minimum is about \$30,000, this was negotiated down.

The hospitality room will be at the Home 2 Suites, which is the host hotel. There is a really nice room there and they will allow us to bring food in. We will be working with groups to provide food.

The registration form is currently live online at AAGeorgia.org. There are also paper registration forms. We are encouraging everyone to use the online forms (it eliminates having to rekey the information). During the Augusta convention we registered 163 and have 54 online registrations for a total of 217. Registration at the convention will open Thursday afternoon for early arrivals.

We are still working on the program. We will have 5 main speakers plus an AI-Anon speaker. In addition, there will be local speakers concurrently with workshops (this was done at the

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Augusta convention and everyone thought it was a good idea, it gives people a choice).

We are planning 3 workshops and some discussion meetings. The convention will actually start Friday. However, we are planning a discussion meeting Thursday evening for early arrivals. There will also be an Al-Anon discussion meeting Saturday afternoon.

Activities will include a golf tournament Saturday morning, cost will be \$60. We thought about a motorcycle poker run, but not everyone would be able to participate. Jekyll Island has some of the best bike trails anywhere. So, we are planning a bicycle poker run Saturday morning. You can bring your bike or rent one.

We will also have yoga on the beach and beach volleyball.

In addition to planned activities, there are plenty of things to do on Jekyll: putt-putt, Mosaic Museum, historic district, Sea Turtle Center, dolphin tours, or just relax.

We currently have room blocks at 8 hotels (there are 2 more that we are working on). Hotel rates range from \$159 to \$239 per night. In addition to hotels, there are rental houses available that are a great alternative. The host hotel will be the Home 2 Suites. It is a short walking distance to the convention.

A buffet dinner is planned for Saturday night. The cost will be \$35 per person.

There will be a dance Saturday night with either live band or DJ.

Please note that plans may change before the convention

Jimmy Mooney

Chairman – 71st GA Prepaid Convention

Old Business –

1. Discussion, vote. Motion–Coins for Cons. (Tabled at September Assembly)

Motion introduced at the September 2023 Assembly by David J., GSR Thompson Group;

That the assembled General Service Representative instructs the treasurer to include in the regular Area 16 Financial Report

the following balances related for Coins for Cons contributions–

Beginning Balance of the Coins for Cons Account at the beginning of the reporting period.

Total revenues during reporting period

Total expenditures during the reporting period

Expenditure for requests from individuals during the reporting period

Expenditures for requests from institutions and organizations during the reporting period

Ending balance of coins for cons account at the end of the reporting period

The treasurer shall choose the reporting period based upon accounting needs, but the reporting shall be presented each Assembly.

Chairperson Tracy M. asked for more discussion on the matter–

Floor discussion

Erica, GSR Flint River Group– Asked for clarification regarding what the reporting period would be and asked if the information was already presented in the budget or posted anywhere else.

Tracy M. clarified stating the information was not in the budget and is contained within the Corrections Committee. As for the reporting period, the motion states that the treasurer would choose the reporting period based upon accounting needs.

Tori, GSR for 14C Canton Group– Asked for clarification on the difference, if any, in regards to the ‘pink can’ and Coins for Cons. Also asked if Coins for Cons was an actual ‘sanctioned’ part of AA, or if it is an outside organization with which Area 16 partners with.

Tracy M.– Stated that the ‘pink can’ and

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Coins for Cons are the same thing.

Coins for Cons is *not* a part of Area 16. Asked for Tamera of Dawn to come to the mic and give further clarity.

Tamera P. - Explained that Coins for Cons was created by the Corrections Committee. Funds from Coins for Cons are only to be used for the purpose of purchasing literature going into the jails. Is *not* a line item in the budget. Groups send money only for that purpose and funds are not used for anything else. The Corrections Chair sends out the financial report regarding Coins for Cons. Information is also presented at Area Assembly.

Brian, Early Risers Group 16D - Asked if the purpose of the motion was to create greater transparency.

David J., GSR for the Thompson Group - Clarified that the motion was made with the intent to create transparency and in order to ensure funds are going directly to inmates in need of literature in the jails.

Allen J., GSR Swainsboro Group - Stated that anytime money is involved that money needs to be accounted for. Expressed that the body has a right to know where and to whom the funds are being distributed. Believes that spreading the message literature is one of our most powerful means of carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Chris, GSR Sunrise Group 16B - Their district does not operate by sending Coins for Cons money to the state. There is a separate account that specifically holds those funds and whenever their corrections committee needs to buy literature, they make a request through the treasurer to remove that money and pay for the literature that is being distributed. This is done autonomously through the district.

Asked what the state's part in Coins for Cons, does it need this, or is it solely a district by district process that would be autonomous to different groups?

Jessica, DCM 7B - Question for Tamera or Dawn, is there a reporting of the Coins for Cons account and is it available by Corrections? Is it posted in the AA Message, and how often.

Dawn, Corrections Committee Chair - Clarified that the reporting of Coins for Cons money is available at the corrections workshops held during assembly and also presented at the GSR workshop of Saturday. As far as she knows all literature being purchased is going directly to the hands of the inmates, not a library.

Rusty L. - Asked for confirmation that Coins for Cons is not an AA affiliate. Being that it is not an actual part of alcoholics anonymous, there is concern that we are commingling money within GSSA's accounts for a truly unaffiliated entity. Though Coins for Cons is fantastic in its own right, he is concerned that it's commingled in GSSA accounts and we don't do that with any other outside organization.

Recommended that Coins for Cons should possibly have its own separate account. of funds with Coins for Cons (outside entity) Possibly need its own account.

Tamera P., GSSA Office Manager - Stated that the report for Coins for Cons is always available on the website. It's called the balance sheet and it shows the line item for Coins for Cons. Each group who contributes GSR receives a receipt for the contribution.

Amy S., GSR Greenhouse Group 16C - Called the question

Penny, GSR Serenity by the River - Seconded

Show of hands for Motion to Call the Question- Motion passed

Vote taken via show of hands for the original motion- 2/3 majority

Motion Failed

Minority opinion called- declined

Ad Hoc Committee Report-

2. Motion made during September 2023 Assembly:

On page 39 of the AA service manual that item 8 in the section "Services to be performed by Assembly Office" be changed from, "If requested by the delegate meetings of the DCMs and the office committee may be published at the delegates discretion" to;

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“Minutes of the DCMs and the office committee shall be made available to the membership on a password protected page of the Area 16 website within 30 days of each meeting. Office committee meeting minutes shall only be redacted in order to protect discussion of personal matters and with all other discussions being published.”

Ad Hoc Committee Report- Wally L. DCM 13A

Committee met virtually via Zoom

Methodology used by the committee-

- understand the reasoning for the original request
- discuss with past area 16 delegates
- apply the traditions
- make final recommendations.

Motion is a proposed manual change.

Possible Solutions presented by Ad Hoc Committee-

1. No change
2. Attach minutes to the assembly minutes as one or two other areas do (would require a separate motion)

Add software to the website to establish the process to record

Final Recommendations- To leave the manual as written. **Will vote on motion at Assembly in May.**

New Business -

Bid for 73rd Annual Pre-paid Convention 2026

Heather D. 16C-Duluth, GA

Dates have been secured for October 15th-October 18th 2026 at the Sonesta at Gwinnett Place.

Can accommodate maximum of 1,190 attendees

Room rate- \$145 a night with complimentary parking

Will vote at Assembly in May

Approval for New Committee Chairs-

Communications chair- Amy B. , Co-chair Derek W.

PI/CPC chair- Karen A., Co-chair Todd C.

Drew H. Archives

Alternate Delegate Election -

Rusty L. taking tally

Mark G elected as new Alternate Delegate

General Sharing-

PI/CPC Rep, 10A - Miko- Asked about the process of dissolving a subcommittee due to the dissolving of the Area 16 Armed Forces subcommittee and whether or not an ad hoc committee should be or was established in the deciding.

Tracy M. Area Chair- clarified that the decision on whether or not to dissolve a subcommittee lies within the hands of the original committee for which it was created.

Discussion, vote. Motion

Motion introduced by Brian, GSR Primary Purpose Group-

To stop passing the basket and asking for seventh tradition contributions from those attending GSSA weekends.

Cheryl M., GSR The Vinings Group Atlanta-Seconded

Logan, GSR Bainbridge 1A- Motion to Decline to Consider

Tracy M., Area Chair- Clarified that there can be no motion to decline to consider as the original motion did not pertain to a manual change.

Harold L., Alternate GSR, Chattahoochee Beginners Group- Previous state treasurer (1991-1992) Explained that originally the 7th tradition baskets were passed during assembly weekend only until expenses for coffee were met. Once the coffee expense was met, they no longer passed the basket.

Suzanne, GSR Surrender Group, 7A- Motion to Table discussion

Ashley P. GSR, Friendship Group- Seconded

Motion failed

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Discussion Cont.

George K., GSR Paulding Group, 14D- Expressed that no one had ever forced him to put money in the basket.

Daniel, GSR New Start Group Peachtree City, 10A- Read excerpt from the self-support card from aa.org-

“But the 7th tradition is more than simply paying for rent or other group expenses but is both a privilege and a responsibility of individual group members to ensure our organization at every level remains forever self-supporting and free of outside influences that might divert us from our primary purpose.”

Terry GSR, Sisters in Sobriety, 7B- Stated her question as being that if the original purpose of passing the basket at assembly was to cover the expense of coffee, what is the money collected from assembly going towards now.

Todd B., Area Treasurer- Responded, stating that the money collected from passing the basket is lumped together as one line item in the budget for assembly expenses.

Jessica S., GSR Sisters in Solution- Motion to Call the Question

Daniel L., GSR More Intentional People's Group - Seconded

Motion Passed

Original motion vote- Motion failed

Discussion, vote.

Motion introduced by David J., GSR Thompson Group-

That Area 16 submit a proposed agenda item addressing the future pricing of the 'Plain Language Big Book' as attached-

That the 'Plain Language Big Book' translation of the publication 'Alcoholics Anonymous' forever have a sales price at least ten percent (10%) more than the lowest sales price of an 'Alcoholics Anonymous' publication for-
mat as sold by GSO, A.A.W.S., or outside partners.

Jeff S., GSR Martin S. Group- Seconded

Tori, GSR Canton Group 14C- Motion to Call

the Question

(motion denied, too early in discussion to call the question)

Mark, DCM 5A- Stated that motion feels punitive toward the plain language version of the Big Book.

Jeff S., GSR Martin S. Group- Clarified that the intent of the motion was not to take punitive action against anyone but to protect the integrity of the original version of the Big Book.

Doug, GSR Cairo Group 1A- Motion to Call the Question

Amy, GSR Greenhouse Group- Seconded
Motion Passed

Original Motion Vote- Motion Failed

Chris, GSR Sunrise Group 16b- Motion to Adjourn

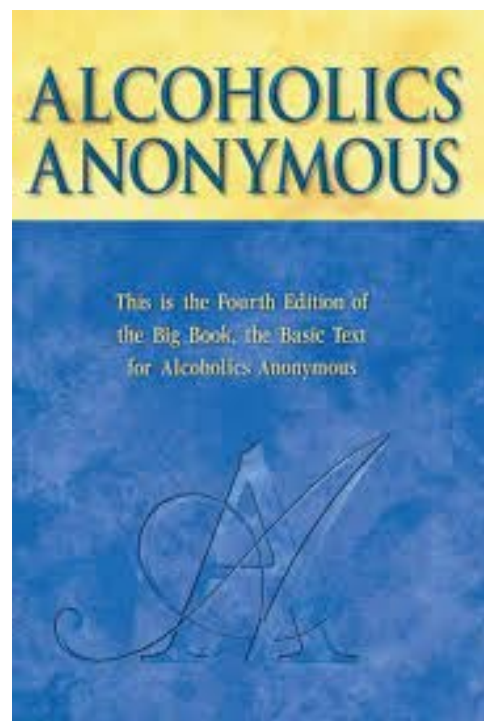
Tori, GSR Canton Group 14c- Seconded
All in favor of adjourning.

Closed Meeting with the Lord's Prayer.
(English/Spanish)

Respectfully Submitted,

Kirby M.

Area 16 Secretary



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71st Georgia State Prepaid Convention



October 17th - 20th, 2024

Jekyll Island Convention Center

Please mark the circles below if you are interested in attending the following:

Saturday Morning Golf Tournament ☐
Saturday Night Dinner: Island Buffet ☐

Additional activities and speakers are TBA

Registration

Name _____ Email _____

Badge Name _____ Sobriety Date _____

Phone Number _____ City _____ State _____

Affiliation: AA ☐ Al-anon ☐ Alateen ☐ Guest ☐

Out of State Registration AA, Al-Anon & Guest: \$25, Alateen \$10

Make Checks Payable to: 71st Georgia Prepaid Convention
Mail Registration to: PO Box 20347, St. Simons Island, GA 31522

Translation/ASL/Accessibilities Request? (Please specify) _____