

DELEGATE / delegate@aageorgia.org

Clubs & Meeting Places

By Tom H.
Area 16 Delegate

I want to thank you for the \$6.32 per member/year contributions for GSO and the \$ 8.95 per member/year contributions for GSSA received at the January Assembly. These small amounts are needed to fund the services provided by both GSO and GSSA. Since every member of AA cannot contribute this amount it was asked that members do this for someone who is unable. At the January Assembly we collected \$63.96 for GSO and \$90.90 for GSSA.

Recently I have been asked about AA clubs and meeting places other than churches. Since these types of questions come up fairly often I have reprinted some excerpts from the AA Guidelines on Relationship between AA and Clubs. The entire document can be found at www.aa.org.

"The relationship between a club and an AA group is mutually beneficial when all involved respect the autonomy of the group."

"Members of a group may also be "club members," and pay dues to enjoy the privileges of the club. However, there are no dues or fees for membership in an AA group, and each group is self-supporting with regard to rental payments for meeting space, coffee arrangements and literature."

"Experience demonstrates that a club can live in harmony with the AA community and serve a very useful purpose for those who find a club helpful."

"Even though a club is not 'AA,' many will think of the club as AA, particularly

the non-AAs in your community. While it is suggested that the name of the club not involve AA, the club members stick carefully to AA's Twelve Traditions and accept funds only from club members."

Dues and contributions from club members keep the club running, in addition to rent money from AA groups that hold their meetings in the club."

"Most agree that AA members serving as club directors should not hold offices in the AA groups meeting in the club. This practice avoids confusion and conflicts."

"The importance of each group's maintaining its autonomy and identity separate from the club in which it meets cannot be emphasized too strongly. The group's responsibility is to the suffering alcoholic and to the Fellowship as a whole, rather than to the club."

"The group is self-supporting through its own contributions. This includes

"The group's responsibility is to the suffering alcoholic and to the Fellowship as a whole, rather than to the club."

paying a fair rent for use of the facilities, maintaining a separate treasury and making its own contributions directly to the local central/intergroup office, the district, the area general service committee and to GSO."

"Even though the group meets in a club that may be composed exclusively of AA members, and many members of the group may be club members, too, the relationship of the AA group itself to the club should be the same as it would be to a church, hospital, school or other facility in which it might rent space for its meetings."

I hope this helps answers some of the questions you may have about the relationship between AA and club houses.

ALTERNATE DELEGATE / alt_delegate@aageorgia.org

Spirit of Rotation

By Rebecca T.
Area 16 Alternate Delegate

The first eleven steps are designed to fit ourselves to be of maximum service to God and our Fellows. Step Twelve, the Traditions and the Concepts are designed for us to work with others, inside and outside of the program. Working with others is two thirds of the Program - Recovery, Unity and Service.

When I look at Concept One, how humbling it must have been for Bill

and Bob to turn over the responsibility for our world services to the Fellowship. I can also relate this Concept to my home group: when I rotate out of a position, I need to let go for the next person to take over the job. In all cases I need to remain available to share my experience.

If we are all responsible for the Fellowship, then I challenge you to ask someone different to take part in your Cluster Forum. I look forward to meeting you throughout the year at the different Cluster Forums.

TREASURER / treasurer@aageorgia.org

Group Bank Accounts

By Gene T.
Area 16 Treasurer

Well, I made it through the first Assembly without stumbling over myself, so I feel good about that. I did learn that many groups don't have a bank account and do not know how to go about getting one. So I have taken a passage from www.aa.org about how to obtain an EIN (Employers Identification Number) to open an account. To review this, please go to www.aa.org and find "Contact Us." Click there and then go to "Financial Information," then go to "AA Guidelines on Finance" and click there. Finally, go to page 3 and read about obtaining an EIN.

BANK ACCOUNTS & TAX ID NUMBERS

Question: Our group needs to open a bank account and we were asked for an "I.D. number." Can we use GSO's?

Answer: No. More and more frequently, AA groups in the U.S. are being asked to supply an I.D. number to a bank when opening a checking or savings account, whether or not it is interest bearing. No local AA organization can use the tax-exempt status or identification number of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc., since each entity is autonomous in financial matters, as in all other ways. Local entities should obtain their own tax-exempt status and I.D. numbers.

Question: How do we obtain a tax number for our group checking account?

Answer: There is a relatively simple way - the first step is to obtain a "Federal ID Number." Each group must obtain its own number by filing form SS-4, "Application for Employer Identification Number." To obtain the form, call your local IRS office listed in the phone book. You can access the IRS Web site and download the form at www.irs.gov. The form asks if there is one group exemption number that applies to all. There is not; each group must obtain its own number.

Most banks will assist you in obtaining an EIN, but if your bank tells you that you must pay for this form or you must go to Georgia Secretary of State, please try another bank. You are not a Corporation so it is not required.

SECRETARY / secretary@aageorgia.org

Passing It On

By Shari M.
Area 16 Secretary

It was wonderful to see everyone at our January Assembly and at the Southwest Cluster Forum. This year I have been able to share the joy of service with a new friend. Last August, a newcomer asked me to sponsor her. I have sponsored many women since I have been sober, and while I believe in the principle of attraction rather than promotion, I always encourage my sponsees to get involved in service. When I mention that the type of service that I do involves trips out of town and lots of early mornings, many of them choose to stick with making the coffee in their first months of sobriety. But not this one. She joined me at the Prepaid Convention, the Southwest Cluster

Forum and the Assembly. It was amazing!

I have had the gift of taking newcomers through the steps and seeing them experience the freedom from the obsession to drink, but I have never had an experience quite like this one; being able to introduce a newcomer to Area service and watching her experience the awe and joy that comes from sitting in a business meeting with over 500 like-minded alcoholics, ensuring that our Traditions and the program as we know it are carried on for the still-suffering alcoholic. Wow!

I have learned that there is just as much joy in sharing our Third Legacy as there is in sharing our personal recovery. We have a

"I have had the gift of taking newcomers through the steps and seeing them experience the freedom from the obsession to drink."

number of upcoming events, the Southeast Cluster Forum in Savannah February 14, the District 17 Forum March 23, and the West Central Cluster Forum April 6. So grab a newcomer (or an old-timer) and come join us. My sponsee and I will see you there. And don't forget to keep your Group Information forms updated on our website, and email your District minutes to districtminutes@aageorgia.org.

GRAPEVINE / grapevine@aageorgia.org

A Frequently Asked Question

**By Joan M., Chair
Area 16 Grapevine Committee**

Anyone involved with the Grapevine sooner or later is asked whether or not the Grapevine is Conference-approved literature. The short answer is "no". The long answer isn't so cut and dry.

Conference approval may often take years for a piece of literature to become approved. There is a tedious process to make sure there is agreement that the literature reflects AA's experience and that it conforms to our Traditions and principles. In order for literature to be published as "Conference-Approved", it must be approved by the entire General Service Conference.

By contrast, the Grapevine magazine is published twelve times a year.

The Conference meets only one time a year. It would be impossible to publish the magazine on a timely basis and go through Conference-approval. Therefore, the Conference put out an Advisory Action in 1986 to address this issue. It is printed on the inside front page of each magazine and reads "Since each issue of the Grapevine cannot go through the Conference – approval process, the Conference recognizes the AA Grapevine as the international journal of Alcoholics Anonymous".

The AA Grapevine Statement of Purpose states in part that the magazine is "written, edited, illustrated and read by AA members and others interested in the AA program of recovery," connecting alcoholics to one another. It also quotes Bill as saying, "The Grapevine will be the voice of the Alcoholics

Anonymous movement. Its editors and staff will be primarily accountable to the AA movement as a whole. Within the bounds of friendliness and good taste, the Grapevine will enjoy perfect freedom of speech on all matters directly pertaining to Alcoholics Anonymous. Like the Alcoholics Anonymous movement it is to mirror, there will be but one central purpose: The Grapevine will try to carry the AA message to alcoholics and practice the AA principles in all its affairs."

FROM YOUR EDITOR

I'm a marketing nerd, I admit it. I love to measure the growth of campaigns, website activity, etc. So I was thrilled to hear we were going to add a new section to the Georgia Message which includes our web statistics. For the month of January, we had almost 1,700 visits **a day** to the website. In comparison, my company site receives about 200 daily visitors. This speaks volumes about the need for www.aageorgia.org as well as the effectiveness of its content. Hats off to Tom B. and Andrew N. for an amazing job.

Please take a moment to review the website for all the service material it provides. It's a resource rich in information for us all.

—Amy F., Area 16 Editor

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The Georgia Message of AA is published by Area 16.  
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## **Taking Small Steps**

**By Ed T., Chair and  
LeAnne O., Co-Chair  
Area 16 Public Information/Cooperation  
With the Professional Community Committee**

I'm truly grateful for the opportunity to be of service. If you are not feeling "it," then get involved! Service is one part of the triangle that keeps me sober, content and balanced. If I only focused on recovery and unity, I would be a little sideways.

This year started out with the Southwest Cluster Forum in Albany. What a great time I had seeing old friends and meeting new ones. There were a lot of great presentations shared... we drunks are a pretty creative group. And the grilled chicken was just the icing on the cake.

At the January Assembly we had

two great PI/CPC meetings. Ed T., our chairperson, is always enthusiastic and does a great job getting folks involved. We had a discussion meeting at both workshops, which was a great opportunity for all there to ask questions and share their experience, strength and hope with carrying the message through PI/CPC work .

Most people starting to get involved in PI/CPC, including me when I first started, seem to get overwhelmed wanting to do it all. My experience is to take it in baby steps, taking one step at a time. When people ask what they can do, I tell them to think back to how they found out about AA. Was it a PSA, a doctor, a judge, a counselor? Any of these ways could be a great place to start.

## ARCHIVES / [archives@aageorgia.org](mailto:archives@aageorgia.org)

### We Share II

By Claudia S., Chair and  
John B., Co-Chair  
Area 16 Archives Committee

Wow – exciting news in archives. At the January 2013 assembly the office committee approved the pre-selling of “We Share II”. “We Share II” is the second volume containing stories on how AA groups and districts were formed in the state of Georgia. This book also contains interviews with Georgia old timers. The new book will be a reprint of the old book, with updated information included. The old book was printed in 1995 and included histories from 1940 – 1993.

“We Share II” will be sold in groups of 5 at \$10 a piece. That's a minimum 20% discount. The book will retail for \$12.00 - \$14.00 after it has been printed. Also, remember you have to pay 7% sales

tax. Your group can buy their copies online or send GSSA a check with the request “We Share II”. Or we will have tables set up at all assemblies. Flyers will be available at the assemblies, also, to fill out or to take back to your home group. This advance revenue will be used to get the book created in a digital format so we are able to edit the original book. Also, we will have to pay in advance for all copies that are printed. So buy your copies today, save money and ensure delivery of your copies.

Reminder - if your group has not sent in their group history, please have them do so ASAP. Deadline for group histories is September 22, 2013. We will have a list of all groups that have and have not sent new information, on the Area 16 Web page by May Assembly.

## CORRECTIONS / [corrections@aageorgia.org](mailto:corrections@aageorgia.org)

### Practical Experience

By Jim T., Chair and  
Tim E., Co-Chair  
Area 16 Corrections Committee

On page 89 of the Big Book, it states “Practical experience shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics. It works when other activities fail.” We firmly believe that carrying the AA message of recovery into correctional facilities qualifies as “intensive.”

Approximately one half of our state's inmates are incarcerated as a direct result of alcohol. Many of them come to the same conclusion that I came to: I didn't get arrested every time I drank, but every time I got arrested, I had been drinking. Unlike those of us on the outside, the alcoholic who is locked up cannot just simply attend an AA meeting. They are dependent on us, as AA members, to bring meetings inside the guard line. This may sound daunting to some, but our Corrections volunteers who do this on a regular basis all agree that it is an amazing form of Twelfth Step work. We currently have opportunities at a number of correctional facilities across Georgia to start meetings, but need to find local volunteers in order to proceed.

Entrance into a correctional facility requires prior approval and is contingent upon passing a background check. County jails generally do this internally, while the Georgia Department of Corrections requires ID badges for all state facilities. Area 16 offers training for DOC certification three times a year at the state office in Macon.

The next training will be held on Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, and is free to all AA members. No registration is necessary; just show up with a picture ID and a pen by 8:15 AM. Please contact us by phone or email at [corrections@aageorgia.org](mailto:corrections@aageorgia.org) if you have any interest in getting involved with Corrections service or if we can answer any questions.

## COMMUNICATIONS / [communications@aageorgia.org](mailto:communications@aageorgia.org)

### Carrying the Message

By Bill F., Chair and  
Chuck L., Co-Chair  
Area 16 Communications Committee

We have had an exciting start for 2013. It was a great Cluster Forum in Albany, then a very productive Assembly. Welcome to the new Officers and Chair people. I'm looking forward to working with you.

We are in need of Spanish translators, both verbal and written. We are getting more requests for translation all the time, and while the team is doing a terrific job, it is voluntary and we do not want them to burn out. So please volunteer either on the website or email directly to [communications@aageorgia.org](mailto:communications@aageorgia.org).

The new Service Directory is out; check your Groups and District for corrections. Tamera and her crew did a great job. We have also formed a team to bring the Georgia Service Manual up to date with actions passed by the Assembly.

We have had some Assembly Evaluation Forms submitted from the website. If you have not sent in yours, please do. Your input is important to us.

We have a new Co-Web Administrator, Andrew N. He brings a great deal of talent and enthusiasm to the team. He is making the website and its different parts more searchable on the internet. It is fascinating to see what is taking place on the website. Please check it out at [aageorgia.org](http://aageorgia.org). Let us know what you think.

Thank you for allowing us to serve. Let us know what you think. After all, that is what Communications is all about.

**“We are in need of more Spanish translation assistance. Volunteers are requested to email [communications@aageorgia.org](mailto:communications@aageorgia.org).”**

**TREATMENT/ [treatment@aageorgia.org](mailto:treatment@aageorgia.org)**

## I Am Responsible

By Willie S., Chair  
John L., Co-Chair  
Area 16 Treatment/Special Needs/  
Accessibilities Committee

I want to thank you all for allowing me to be a part of the Treatment/Special Needs/Accessibilities Committee. And thanks to Jimmy S. for his dedication and splendid job as Chair for the past two years.

I am looking forward to serving with our Delegate(Tom H.), Alt. Delegate( Rebecca T.), the DCM's, GSR's, and all others in looking for and finding better ways of carrying the message to others, especially alcoholics, and to those in treatment and those with special needs. John L., Co-Chair, and I are looking forward to seeing and meeting you at the Area events and Cluster Forums throughout the coming two years. We are hoping to have a powerpoint presentation ready for the workshops this May to demonstrate the purpose and aims of the Area 16 Treatment/Special Needs/Accessibilities Committee.

"I am responsible...when anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA to always be there. And for that, I am responsible." We are planning to have detailed discussions at our workshops in May on problems, solutions and many other covered topics on things we face in trying to get the

message to treatment facilities. We want to continue to encourage and attract others to get involved in the Treatment Committee service throughout Area 16. If your District or your group needs more information, please contact John L. or myself through the website or contact us by phone or mail. We are looking forward to seeing all the District/ Group Treatment Representatives at the Assembly.

We strive to be of service to you and hope to have a rewarding experience as we "trudge the road to happy destiny" together. Faith is more than our greatest gift; it's sharing with others that is our greatest responsibility. So we of AA continually seek the wisdom and the willingness by which we may well fulfill that immense trust which the Giver of all perfect gifts has placed in our hands.

**The deadline for inclusion in the GA Message for May and June is April 1<sup>st</sup>.**

There are no subscription fees for this newsletter, however all contributions are appreciated. Please mail to: GSSA, P. O. Box 7325, Macon, GA 31209 or email [editor@aageorgia.org](mailto:editor@aageorgia.org).

## HOW TO CONTACT TRUSTED SERVANTS

To preserve anonymity, the Georgia Message of AA does not contain personal phone numbers, personal email addresses or the password to access protected information on [www.aageorgia.org](http://www.aageorgia.org). Here are some tips on how to reach trusted servants:

1. Use the official email addresses for Area 16 trusted servants located above articles, in our service directory or on [aageorgia.org](http://aageorgia.org).
2. To get a phone number, use the service directory given to each group at the January Assembly or call our Macon office at 478.745.2588.
3. The password to access protected web content can be obtained from the service directory, your GSR, your DCM, the Area office in Macon, [webmaster@aageorgia.org](mailto:webmaster@aageorgia.org) or other trusted servants. Please provide any feedback to [communications@aageorgia.org](mailto:communications@aageorgia.org) or [editor@aageorgia.org](mailto:editor@aageorgia.org).

## Web Stats / [webmaster@aageorgia.org](mailto:webmaster@aageorgia.org)

Here are a few figures the Area 16 Website Committee looks at to measure the traffic of the website.

**Page Views** (The number of pages visitors viewed on a given day):

- Dec. 2012 – 45,770 page views with a daily average of 1,476 page views
- Jan. 2013 – 52,015 page views with a daily average of 1,678 page views

**Unique Visitors** (The number of individual visitors who came to the site. The unique visitors number should always be smaller than the page views number simply because one person can visit multiple pages and thereby generate a number of different page views.):

- Dec. 2012 – 36,016 unique visitors with a daily average of 1,162 unique visitors
- Jan. 2013 – 45,523 unique visitors with a daily average of 1,468 unique visitors

## CALENDAR of EVENTS

*Events listed here are presented solely as a service to readers, not as an endorsement by the State Assembly. For any additional information, please use the addresses provided.*

|                    |                                                                               |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>March 8-10</b>  | <b>Flint River Round Up</b><br>Albany                                         |
| <b>March 23</b>    | <b>District 17 Forum (Espanol)</b><br>Atlanta                                 |
| <b>April 6</b>     | <b>West Central Cluster Forum</b><br>Columbus (6, 7A, 7B, 10A, 10C, 10D, 11C) |
| <b>April 13</b>    | <b>DCM Pre-Conference Meeting</b><br>Macon/Marriott—11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.    |
| <b>April 20-27</b> | <b>63<sup>rd</sup> General Service Conference</b><br>New York                 |
| <b>April 26-28</b> | <b>18<sup>th</sup> Annual Country Round - Up</b><br>Atlanta                   |
| <b>May 17-19</b>   | <b>Georgia AA Service Assembly</b><br>Macon/Marriott                          |

**Minutes from Area 16 Assembly - Marriott Macon City Center, Macon, GA Jan. 20, 2013; 9:05 a.m.—part 1**

**Delegate Report – Tom H.**

I'm an alcoholic and my name is Tom. It is a privilege to serve as your Delegate and I thank you for the opportunity to serve Alcoholics Anonymous here in Area 16 Georgia.

We recently formed a Pre-Paid Ad-Hoc Committee. The Office Committee has asked them to look at the relationship between the Office Committee and the Pre-Paid State Convention and develop an inventory process. At this time we have not identified any manual changes so this committee will report back to the Office Committee and we will keep you informed of its progress and final report.

We have signed the hotel contracts for the years 2014 and 2015 and will be signing contracts for 2016 and 2017 very soon. The room rate will increase \$5.00 dollars in 2014 and our coffee price will increase \$1.00/gallon. We added a clause to protect the room rate after our cut-off dates. Generally a hotel will hold a block of rooms for us that we guarantee to fill and if we don't fill that block one month prior to our arrival the hotel will release our unused room block for general sale. When this happens you can still book a room but almost always it will cost you more than the convention room rate. Starting in 2014 we have protected the room rate after the cut-off date as long as rooms are available. Also, Wi-Fi is free in all guest rooms when booking a room as a member of the Assembly.

This past September I asked you all to approve a motion concerning AA's centennial birthday. I'd like to read to you the letter I sent to GSO and the responses received.

Dear Mrs. H: (General Manager of GSO)  
The vision of Alcoholics Anonymous celebrating 100 years first came to my attention several years ago. Since that time many wonderful ideas have come to light about what a hundredth birthday celebration could look like. There has been much excitement over the recent announcement by the Library of Congress naming our book, Alcoholics Anonymous, as one of 88 books that shaped America. There is a sense of amazement brewing that Stepping Stones has been unanimously recommended by a national board to become a National Historical Landmark. Time magazine included Alcoholics Anonymous in a piece titled '80 Days That Changed the World.' It wasn't until I was sober for many years before I understood that the miracle of my sobriety through AA is recognized in very touching ways outside of our Fellowship.

The World will recognize the miracle of our Fellowship on its centennial birthday. Maybe we should cooperate with the public recognition of this event and to do so may require a special Ad-Hoc Committee. With all of this in mind I purposed the following to the Area 16 September 2012 Assembly;

"We of Area 16, Georgia, recommend that the General Service Conference form a committee in 2013 to begin the planning for AA's 100th birthday in 2035. We feel this event is significant in our history and requires an extended planning period to consider an appropriate celebration."

The proposal passed with substantial unanimity, there was only one vote in opposition. The discussion on the Assembly floor prior to the vote was some of the most touching sharing I've had the privilege to witness. In hindsight I realized that the General Service Conference may not be the appropriate place for discussion. I hope that you will pass this along to the appropriate place as you see fit.

Respectfully,  
Tom H.

Phyllis responded;

"Dear Tom,  
Thank you for submitting Area 16's proposal to recognize and celebrate of AA's 100th year! As we were talking earlier, 23 years is a relatively short time away.  
I truly appreciate your openness to where and how this planning occurs - a genuine AA spirit of Unity. To start the process, I would like to send it to the Trustees Conference Committee for consideration in January. There are so many possibilities of committees formed and scope of participants, but this initial committee discussion will be a good beginning.

With much gratitude for your service,  
Phyllis"

The General Service Conference Coordinator followed up with a letter stating;

"Dear Tom:  
Warmest Holiday greetings from all of your friends at GSO!  
Your letter dated December 2, 2012 was forwarded to my attention as I am the current General Service Conference Coordinator.

Thank you for your thoughtful letter regarding the request from Area 16 Georgia 'that the General Service Conference form a committee in 2013 to begin the planning for AA's 100th birthday in 2035.'

To begin the discussion process, your important correspondence has been forwarded to the trustees' Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums. Your letter may be used as background for the trustees' committee and widely distributed.

Please note that the trustees' Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums will be meeting in February and you will receive a follow-up letter after their deliberations on this request.

In closing, we join in sending our kindest regards and best wishes for a joyous Holiday Season!

In fellowship,  
Eva S."

Eva's letter was carbon copied to the Chairperson of the trustees' Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums and the Chairperson on the trustees' Committee on Conference.

This is a good example of how things end up on the conference agenda or trustees' committees. I want to thank you for putting this forward and I will keep you posted on its progress.

In the Jan./Feb. Message of this year I wrote about some of the services GSO provides while relating how these services are only possible through contributions. I feel it is very important that our members know the how and the why of their contributions. Perhaps a question we should often ask ourselves when doing service is, "Does this have anything to do with providing 12 step work?" And the reason to ask this question is because that is the only business we are in. The result of our 12 step

## Minutes from Area 16 Assembly - Marriott Macon City Center, Macon, GA Jan. 20, 2013; 9:05 a.m.—part 2

work could be counted in the years and days of sobriety that we enjoy because without these services none of us would be here. This crucial and vital 12 step work could not be done without money and this is the only reason we contribute when the hat is passed. However, as so many of us know, our history of contributions has never been able to cover the services we provide. We have always relied on book sales to fill the shortfall. How big is that shortfall? Sadly, the answer is about 70% of the needed funds come from contributions. How can we change that history? One of the ideas from the Office Committee meeting is to ask our members to contribute for someone who cannot. In other words, we are very giving people and our very life blood depends on us giving of our time to others so that they may achieve the miracle of sobriety. I believe that, for those who are able, we can be just as giving with our contributions.

The per member cost to support the services GSO provides for the year 2011 is \$6.32 and the per member cost to provide services to our Area is \$8.95. I pledge to contribute these amounts for someone who cannot at each Assembly. I encourage you all to find ways of increasing our contributions and maybe this idea of gifting a contribution is a way to do just that. I welcome any ideas that are working for you.

Last year while attending the General Service Conference (GSC) a new Public Service Announcement (PSA) was approved. This PSA was aimed at reaching out to the Hispanic female. To me, it was one of the highlights of Conference and I'd like to play it for you now. It is a 60 second PSA titled 'Tengo Esperanza' which translates 'I have hope.' (The PSA was then played at the Assembly and can be found on the aa.org website.

"I never had problems with alcohol, but when Juan lost his job and we had less money coming in, we started to fight. I started drinking, just to deal with the stress. Without realizing it, alcohol took over my life. My sister suggested I look for help. I never thought that going to AA meetings would help at all. But I decided to try a meeting. Finding the courage to go to that meeting was the best thing I've done. I got help from people who know what I've been through. These meetings changed my life. And they're still doing it. Now I know I can live without drinking and, more importantly, I have hope."

Lastly, I wanted to talk to you about anonymity on a personal level. With the explosion of social media in recent years there has been much discussion about our 11<sup>th</sup> Tradition. To me, there is not a stronger worded tradition. "We need *always* maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films." In our literature, through presentations, and workshops we have stressed anonymity because of this word always – it is hard to misunderstand the word always. We should always protect personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films. What about within our fellowship or with our non-alcoholic friends and co-workers? At this level, which does not include press, radio, films, and of course social media it is up to us as individuals on how anonymous we want to be. We know that Dr. Bob felt we were too anonymous within our fellowship but there isn't a lot of discussion about personal anonymity with our non-alcoholic friends and co-workers.

For most of my work career I was very protective of my anonymity and after 15 years in the same career probably less than five co-workers knew about my membership in Alcoholics Anonymous. One day I was asked by an old-timer why I was so protective of my anonymity in the workplace and before I could answer he said, "You've been sober a long time. Are you afraid you will drink again?" He then encouraged me not to be overly

protective of my anonymity in the workplace. Since that time I have been a little more open about my membership and to my knowledge this hasn't harmed me and instead has exposed me to conversations about friends and family members of co-workers I would not have otherwise had the opportunity to help.

I had to recently question the years I had been so protective of my anonymity in the workplace when a retired fireman whom I worked with most of my career lost his oldest son of 29 years this past Saturday when he was walking down the street drunk and was struck and killed by a car. John Jr. was walking home that night because of a DUI last month. I had known John Jr. since he was about 6 years old. On occasion he would sleep over at the fire station with us a young boy. I watched him play high school football and basketball. Sometimes he would have dinner with us at the fire house as a grown man. I didn't know he had a drinking problem. We all know about this family secret. But I had to question if this family secret would have been kept from me had I broken my anonymity to John Sr. I couldn't ask John Sr. this question because he died from cancer this past August. I spent some time with that family this past week. I helped his other two children run errands and finalize the funeral arrangements for their brother and my friend. I made sure to break my anonymity with them as we completed errands. Sometimes it takes a village of people to help someone and my membership in this fellowship makes me uniquely capable to be a part of that village. I doubt I will be as protective of my anonymity at this private level in the future. I know when it comes to things like CPC work I will gladly break my anonymity to a perfect stranger and I hope I never again keep secret the gift of my sobriety to a friend I've known for over 20 years.

Patty L., Area 16 Chairperson, opened the business session of the Area 16 Service Assembly with the Serenity Prayer, read first by Blanca in Spanish then followed in English. The meeting was opened at 9:30 a.m.

### **Business Meeting:**

Patty recognized past Area Officers in attendance (9): Brookins B. past Delegate, Past Secretary; David S. past Delegate; David M. past Delegate, past Treasurer, current Office Committee Chair; Patty L. past Secretary, past Delegate, current Area Chair; Judy S. past Secretary, current Alt. DCM; Ernie M. past Secretary; Katy M. past Secretary, current DCM; Glenda M. past Secretary; Bill M. past Treasurer; Tom H. past Secretary, current Delegate.

### **Final Report of the 59<sup>th</sup> Prepaid Convention – Pine Mountain, GA – 2012 – Debi K. (Chair):**

Put on convention for slightly over \$24,000, so check for \$13,226.08 was returned to Area. Appreciate support, it was divinely inspired, we had a great time! Had 1201 attendees at Prepaid. Presented signed banner to archives.

### **Report of the 60<sup>th</sup> Prepaid Convention – Atlanta, GA – 2013 Art. H. (Chair):**

Introduced Committee: Co-Chair Diane M., Treasurer Bill M., Entertainment Committee: Katy M. and Nathan W. (not in attendance), Facilities: Lynn T., Hospitality: Sally Y. (not in attendance) Outreach : Mark J. (Chase S. attended in his place), Program Committee Chair: Chet G., Registration: Erica L. and Joy W. Co-Chair, Al-Anon Liaison Dorothy N. Will have 6 AA speakers and 2 Al-Anon speakers, one AA speaker in Spanish. Many activities: young people's dance, Thursday will be for Young People in AA (though open to all), another dance Saturday, poker run, golf, karaoke, open mike, 5K run and walk. Will be held at Hyatt Regency Atlanta downtown.

## Minutes from Area 16 Assembly - Marriott Macon City Center, Macon, GA Jan. 20, 2013; 9:05 a.m.—part 3

Register for hotel (has some smoking rooms) at 888-421-1442 code GAAP, and register for Convention itself. Have a little over 400 people registered, can handle up to 1500 attendees. Can sign up to volunteer on [aageorgia.org](http://aageorgia.org). Theme is Solution in Action Georgia Celebrates 60 Years, part of celebration will be to recognize past trusted servants. Be sure to take flyers back to groups.

### Area Officer's Reports:

**Rebecca T., Alternate Delegate:** 139 people attended SW Cluster Forum. SE Cluster Forum is in Savannah February 16. District 17 Forum in Atlanta March 23 with simultaneous translation provided. DCM Pre-Conference Planning Meeting April 13 at Marriott Macon. West Central Cluster Forum in Columbus April 6. Next Assembly May 17-19 in Macon.

### Shari M., Secretary:

Attendance Report for the January Assembly:

|                                 |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| DCMs                            | 43  |
| Alternate DCMs                  | 32  |
| District Secretaries/Treasurers | 14  |
| GSRs                            | 235 |
| Alternate GSRs                  | 73  |
| Group Secretaries/Treasurers    | 21  |
| Grapevine Reps                  | 13  |
| Treatment Facilities Reps       | 10  |
| Correctional Facilities Reps    | 11  |
| Communications                  | 2   |
| PI/CPC Reps                     | 10  |
| Archives Reps                   | 7   |
| Members                         | 547 |

2013 Service Directories Available, please update group info on website. Please email district minutes to [districtminutes@aageorgia.org](mailto:districtminutes@aageorgia.org). Group secretaries can email group minutes to DCMs. DCMs please check district email boxes regularly.

### Gene T., Treasurer:

Baskets were passed. It takes approximately \$12,000 to put on Assembly which is \$25 per person to have Assembly be self-supporting (actual figure \$23.96 (and a half). Only collected \$2124 so far. Contributions last year down by 10% (budgeted \$140,000, closer to \$130,000), please pass on to groups. 2 boxes for contributions at front of room. A lot of groups asking questions about bank accounts. If you have a group and want to start a bank account, AA is a non-profit organization, 501 C-3, tell bank that and you will receive EIN number, bank will help you fill out SS-4 form which is free. Thanked 59<sup>th</sup> Prepaid for check.

Patty announced that flyers for events available on tables outside ballroom. If there are any problems with facilities let Tamera or Office Committee member know. AI-Anon Area Assembly will now be meeting same weekend we do at Marriott also. Reminder that General Sharing is not time for announcements.

### Old Business:

Approval of Minutes from September 2012 Area Business Meeting by show of hands.

### Report from We Share Our Georgia Experience, Claudia S.:

Original We Share book published 20 years ago. History of groups and meetings and districts in Area 16. Currently in process of updating information. Can read PDF of original book on website. Less than 50% of current groups included. Project will be wrapped up by September 2013. Please submit history if you have not. Currently pre-selling We Share II, will be \$10 if

you buy ahead of time, sold in increments of 5. Can order and pay on website or call Tamera to order. Please include 7% tax. Will have list of groups which have submitted histories on web before next Assembly.

### Vote on Motion to add Special Needs/Accessibilities to Treatment Facilities Committee.

Patty explained the process: Motion had been placed on floor. Ad hoc committee reported back in September. Report as follows: "We have reviewed all available documentation including the Area 16 Service Manual, met with Treatment Chair and Co-Chair, met and discussed as a Committee and have concluded this is a good move to combine the two service functions and change the name and description to Treatment/Special Needs Accessibilities. The following Area 16 Service Manual Changes are recommended. Page 20: Change description/title from Treatment Committee Chairperson to Treatment/Special Needs Accessibilities Chairperson. Page 20: Add a new duty "2. Become thoroughly familiar with Special Needs Accessibilities topics and the Special Needs Accessibilities Workbook." Page 20-21: Renumber list of duties/qualifications and add # 9 to list. Page 21: Modify existing #6 qualification from "Should be able to organize and lead particularly in his/her contacts with DCMs and GSRs and the treatment facilities in their districts" to "Should be able to organize and lead particularly in his/her contacts with DCMs and GSRs by providing guidance on Special Needs Accessibilities and the treatment facilities in their districts." Vote by show of hands. None opposed. Motion was passed. Patty thanked Rick and Ad Hoc Committee.

### New Business:

Approval of New Chairs and Co-Chairs of Area Committees:

Corrections: Jim T. and Tim E.

Grapevine: Janie C. Co-Chair

Treatment Facilities: Willie S. and John L.

These positions are appointed by Delegate, were confirmed by show of hands.

### Receive Bids for 2015 Prepaid Convention:

Dave F. DCM District 6 placed bid for District 6 to host 62<sup>nd</sup> Georgia Prepaid Convention on October 15-18, 2015 in Columbus, GA. Will be held at Columbus Trade and Convention Center. Has a ballroom that has seating capacity 1400 and additional meeting rooms. Hotels: Marriott Columbus 70 rooms at \$129 per night, Doubletree 120 rooms \$99 per night, Quality Inn 150 rooms at \$89 per night, Howard Johnson 60 rooms at \$79 per night. Rooms sleep 4. Plenty of restaurants within walking distance. Plenty of entertainment: tennis, golf, Riverwalk, biking, running. Planning poker run. Nat'l Infantry Museum is open and, whitewater rafting and kayaking course being planned. Thank you for allowing me to invite you to Columbus. Patty stated that the Bidding process was concluded and information will be confirmed by Dave at next Assembly and Assembly will then vote.

### General Sharing:

Tom B., Web Administrator: Please check meeting schedules and update on website. 59<sup>th</sup> Prepaid Report will be available on website.

Motion to adjourn: Terry P., GSR Pembroke 5A, seconded by Warren B., GSR Washington County Group. Closed with Lord's Prayer led by Victor in Spanish, then followed in English at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shari M., Area 16 Secretary