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The Georgia Message of AA

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ABOUT THIS ISSUE

This issue is all about change, shorter articles and different headings are just a couple. The Message is in transition. By next issue you will see a whole new format. Easier to read and more compact but with all the features you have come to expect. It is also being moved to a non password protected area of the website making it easier to get online! Your trusted servants doing their best to serve Area 16.

- Chuck L., Editor,
Georgia Message of AA

Contributing editors include Karen F., Janie C., Jane H., editor Chuck L., and Communications Committee Chair Shari M. Tamera P. and volunteers print and deliver. Contact: Editor@aageorgia.org

DELEGATE / delegate@aageorgia.org

Trust the process

By Patty L.
Area 16 Delegate

As I write this article, it's been a week since our January Assembly and I am just returning to Savannah after having attended the General Service Board weekend. Wow! Thank you for giving me the opportunity to see AA in such a different way than I ever imagined. Once again, I will assure you that AA and its foreseeable future are in very good hands. We have done our part in selecting qualified, available and willing trusted servants. The Board weekend includes trustee committee meetings and Board meetings of the AA Grapevine, Inc., AA World Services, Inc. (AAWS) and the General Service Board. They addressed very difficult topics like the financial problems of the AA Grapevine and La Viña, declining literature sales for both the Grapevine and AAWS, controversial requests for new literature and policy matters. I saw much grace and dignity as our trustees presented their thoughtful and sometimes very impassioned comments.

It was amazing to me how many times I heard trustees and directors saying that they wanted to send an item to the conference committee because they felt the Fellowship should have input. The trustees Literature Committee was of most interest to me as I will chair the Conference Literature Committee. It

was great to hear the deliberations of each topic and have an understanding of what our trustees felt about a particular topic. The Conference advisory action to develop literature on spirituality resulted in a call for stories from the Fellowship. The trustees' report describes a pamphlet on spirituality for newcomers that include a wide range of spiritual experiences. So far, 81 stories have been received. The trustees also reported that they have received four stories to update the pamphlet "AA and The Armed Services". The deadline for these stories will be extended until July 15, 2011. Please encourage our active duty and veteran members to submit stories. The Conference Committee will forward as agenda items draft updates to the book Living Sober and the pamphlet "The AA Member – Medication and Other Drugs". The Conference agenda will include a request to reconsider the Conference Advisory Action regarding literature on spirituality. We will also review a request to add the Preamble to the book Alcoholic Anonymous. There are many significant issues we discuss at our Pre-Conference DCM Meeting. The DCMs will receive the Conference Agenda at the end of February.

Lastly, I wanted to add a few things to consider about Concepts III and IV. Concept III: To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of AA — the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives—with a traditional "Right of Decision."

- Do we understand what is meant by See DELEGATE on Page 4

'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.'

ALTERNATE DELEGATE / alt_delegate@aageorgia.org

Resolute

By Tom H.
Area 16 Alternate Delegate

How are those resolutions going? I've made a few resolutions for this year that I hope continue for much longer than 2011. But just like my determination to quit drinking, I will have little success unless I look to God for help. Of course, there are things that I must do in order to maintain my sobriety, and for the most part I do fairly well at them. I am a meeting maker, an active sponsor, I engage in 12th step work, I am active in service, and I enjoy a life of not drinking. But where I seem to get out of balance at times is in my

But just like my determination to quit drinking, I will have little success unless I look to God for help.

dedication (determination) to prayer and meditation. Aha, God! Of all the resolutions made for 2011, I have been most successful with a re-dedication of 5 to 20 minutes of daily meditation. The calm, centered feeling I have benefited from during this

daily quiet time has been the addition that has made a great difference in my daily journey. Whether you are one to make annual resolutions or not, you make a difference through your desire to stay sober and by giving back to AA - and I thank you for it.

For upcoming events, I hope to see you on February 26th for the SE Cluster Forum in Midway, on March 12th for the Spanish Cluster Forum in Carrollton, and on April 16th for the West Central Cluster Forum in Newnan. All of these events have flyers posted under "State Events" at www.aageorgia.org. Lastly, the DCM Pre-Conference meeting will be on April 9th from 11am to 3pm in Macon at the State Office.

SECRETARY / secretary@aageorgia.org

Cluster forums = adventure!

By Ernie M.
Area 16 Secretary

This year started out with the Southwest Cluster Forum in Albany. What a joy, and the skits presented were awesome. In case you didn't know, the first workshop (now known as a Cluster Forum) was held in Albany before they were presented statewide. I am looking forward to the remaining Forums this year.

Welcome to all the new GSRs, Alternate GSRs, and trusted servants who have joined us this year. The new directory was given out to the DCMs at the Assembly and if you have updated information, please submit those revisions into the GSSA office; the online service directory is updated monthly. Forms for this can be found online at www.aageorgia.org

(Administration link). You can also check out the committee reports and the Georgia Message online. The username and password were on the Agenda from the assembly, or you can contact your GSR or DCM to obtain this information. We will also see the DCMs and Alternate DCMs at the pre-conference meeting with our Area Delegate on April 9th.

The Secretary/Treasurer Workshop was well attended (standing room only). Don and I enjoyed our first one and I can assure you the next one will be even better. For all District/Zone Secretaries, please remember to send your District/Zone minutes in to districtminutes@aageorgia.org. This helps the Area officers to stay informed about issues around the state, as well as giving the Area a documented archive of our history as it unfolds.

At the May Assembly, we will be taking nominations for Delegate and the election will be in September. Please review the Georgia Manual for the duties and qualifications for Delegate. After the roll call of eligible DCMs to decline or stand, nominations from the floor can be accepted.

Please refer to pg. 27 in your service manual for this procedure.

If there is anything I can do, please contact me at secretary@aageorgia.org.

This helps the Area officers to stay informed about issues around the state, as well as giving the Area a documented archive of our history as it unfolds.

TREASURER / treasurer@aageorgia.org



Do the right thing

By Don M.
Area 16 Treasurer

Do you know that the Georgia State Service Assembly is a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization? This means that any gift an individual contributes to GSSA is tax deductible on your federal tax return, subject to IRS regulations and limitations. This enables us to do the right thing and to be rewarded for it. Is this a great opportunity or what?

There are a couple of caveats, however: GSSA cannot accept donations from non-alcoholics, even if they are grateful to AA for their loved ones' recovery from a hopeless state of mind and body. And we

can't accept more than \$3,000.00 in any one year - even from alcoholics. The same rules apply to the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

While I owe Alcoholics Anonymous my life, I can't afford to give \$3,000 a year to GSSA and/or GSO. What I can do is support my home group and see to it that we, as a group, distribute all money above our prudent reserve to the service structure of Alcoholics Anonymous at the Zone, District, Area, and worldwide levels. And, if I find myself with some extra money, I can do the same as an individual.

So, the financial viability of Alcoholics Anonymous and the Georgia State Service Assembly depend upon my group and me. If we can put a few additional bucks in the basket, we can help assure that we are here for the still suffering alcoholic when he or she shows up.

Derek G. 2 Years
Paul H. 1 Year
Deidra H. 1 Year
Bainbridge Group

District 1, Zone A
Deborah C. September 16, 1996
Happy Hour Group

District 3, Zone A
John D. December 8, 2006
Today Group

District 3, Zone D
Rita V. November 5, 1977
St. Simons - Goodwill Group
See B'DAY CONTRIBUTIONS on Page 9

SUGGESTED SELF-SUPPORT PLAN

Our fellowship must be self-supporting. We offer a suggested support plan for the GSRs to share with their groups. By being self-supporting, we can fully discharge our responsibilities to our beautiful fellowship in Georgia.

In those Districts and Zones where there is no central office, we suggest that the income, after all group expenses have been paid, be allocated as follows:

- State Office, Macon – 50%
- G.S.O. – 30%
- Pre-Paid Convention- 10%
- District/Zone – 10%

In Atlanta, Augusta and any other District/Zone which supports a central office, we suggest that the income, after all group expenses have been paid, be allocated as follows:

- Central Office – 35%
 - State Office, Macon – 30%
 - G.S.O. – 20%
 - Pre-Paid Convention – 10%
 - District/Zone – 5%
- or whatever percentages are in accordance with your group conscience.

Mailing addresses:
G.S.S.A. (State office)
P.O. Box 7325
Macon, GA 31209

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

If you need additional information, please call 478-745-2588.

BIRTHDAY CONTRIBUTIONS

District 1, Zone A
Bonesther M. 43 Years
Bennie B. 35 Years
Sonny V. 27 Years
Cissie F. 21 Years
Carl T. 17 Years
Elizabeth W. 15 Years
Jason T. 4 Years
Frank W. 4 Years
Linda W. 4 Years
Danielle B. 3 Years
Lane R. 3 Years
Jessica J. 2 Years

GRAPEVINE / grapevine@aageorgia.org

Turn the page

By Mary A., Chair
Area 16 Grapevine Committee

Choose your Grapevine/LaViña. Click “Listen” or “Turn the Page!” Although I look forward to receiving my Grapevine in the mail each month, I thought that I would try the new digital version of the magazine. After subscribing online, where I created a username and password, I logged into the digital magazine. I found the digital magazine easy to navigate, and it looks just like the printed edition I receive each month. The magazine can be enlarged, which I really like - for those of us who find larger print easier to read. A search term can be entered, and a window will appear with the term indexed with the page numbers. The

“Read it, subscribe to it, write for it and use it in your Twelve Step work.”

page number can be selected and the page will display. I searched for Victor E., selected the page number, and promptly used the email feature sending the pages to another alcoholic. Pages can also be printed. My favorite feature is the Archives: each magazine I have received is stored in an archive for me to refer back to or reread just like my printed editions. One question frequently asked is if the digital edition can be downloaded

to a reader: the answer is no, not at this time. The digital edition of the Grapevine and LaViña might not be for everyone, but it is one more way to have and share your Grapevine. A year’s subscription is \$19.97, and is available 2 weeks before the print edition.

Results from the Grapevine survey, “The Share Report,” are available on the aageorgia.org website on the Grapevine webpage. This is a password protected page, and uses the same password as other documents on the website. There are several Grape-a-thons being planned, and as soon as the flyers are available they will be posted on the Grapevine webpage. Remember - if you need subscription cards for your home group or district, contact Grapevine Inc. by phone or email and they will gladly send you what you need. Until next time, “Read it, subscribe to it, write for it and use it in your Twelve Step work.”

DELEGATE / Continued from Page 1

the “Right of Decision”? Do we grant it at all levels of service or do we “instruct”?

- Do we trust our trusted servants — GSR, DCM, Area Delegate, the Conference itself?

Concept IV: At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional “Right of Participation”, allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that

each must discharge.

- Do we understand the spiritual principles underlying the “Right of Participation”?
- What does “in reasonable proportion” mean? Do we understand when it is appropriate for AA paid staff to have a vote at the General Service Conference or in our local service structure?
- Do we expect that, because we are

AA members, we should be allowed to vote at any group, even if we are not active members of that group?

Trust the process that is outlined for us in the AA Service Manual, it really works. I get to see it work in my Home Group, GSSA, the General Service Conference and the General Service Board.

HOW TO CONTACT TRUSTED SERVANTS

To preserve anonymity, the Georgia Message of AA does not contain personal phone numbers, personal e-mail addresses or the password to log into protected information on www.aageorgia.org. Here are some tips on how to reach trusted servants:

A. Use the official email addresses for Area 16 trusted

servants located on articles, in our service directory and on aageorgia.org.

B. 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.

C. The password to access password-protected web content

can be obtained from the service directory, your GSR, your DCM, webmaster@aageorgia.org, the Area office in Macon or other trusted servants.

Please provide any feedback to communications@aageorgia.org or editor@aageorgia.org



Experience, strength, hope

**By Harold W., Chair
and Jim T., Co-Chair
Area 16 Corrections Committee**

Jim and I would like to thank Area 16 for our approval to serve as your Co-Chair and Chair for Corrections. I would also like to thank all the past Chairs, from Maynard Y. to Tom H., for all of their experience, strength and hope in showing me what to do, but more importantly -

what not to do.

The workshops at January's Georgia State Service Assembly were well attended. All Districts and Zones were encouraged to have a correctional representative. The morning session at each Assembly is for District/Zone reports and the evening session is for problem solving.

Our display at the GSSA and Cluster Forums now has a miniature jail cell called "Coins for Cons". All Coins for Cons contributions will be used to purchase AA literature for inmates.

Our first training session for certification was held January 29th. We

had 28 people in attendance. The next training session will be on Saturday, May 28th from 8 am – 2 pm at the state office in Macon, GA. Please check with the facility that you will serve because some facilities only accept training from their facility. The new background checks will be done through live finger scan. The chaplains will register you for the scan. There is a scan fee of \$12.90, payable only by money order.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Corrections Chair.

COMMUNICATIONS / communications@aageorgia.org

A new outlook

By Shari M., Chair
and Bill F., Co-Chair
Area 16 Communications
Committee

I have just returned from the Georgia State Service Assembly; it is always a highlight of my year! But you know what I like the best about the Assembly? The meeting after the meeting for all of us that live in South Georgia: Savannah, St. Simons and points beyond, at the Chevron station in Dublin. We sit in the business meeting all morning, drinking tons of coffee, and, having driven up and down I-16 countless times, I (and clearly my fellow AAs) have learned that if you don't stop in Dublin, you're pretty much stuck 'til Statesboro! It always warms my heart to see my AA friends outside of meetings, and it's just so special to get out of the car in the middle of the country and see four or five of my fellow trusted servants there too.

It was an exciting and successful

GSSA for the Communications Committee. I had the privilege of presenting a prospective new layout for the Georgia Message of AA to our Office Committee on Friday night, as well as to the Assembly at large on Saturday. We are considering shortening the Message from 16 pages to eight pages in order to save money. This would involve a new design, shorter articles, and fewer flyers. Cluster Forums would potentially be listed in the Calendar along with all other state events, though the flyers would still be available online. Assembly minutes and service resumes would be included as inserts three times a year. We are also considering a new Georgia State Service Assembly "logo." We got lots of feedback during the Assembly, and if you would like to review the prospective layout, please email communications@aageorgia.org. I would be delighted to send you a PDF that you can print out and share with your group. We are looking at the May/June issue of the Message to institute these changes. A new, shorter layout could potentially save the Area approximately 50% of its current printing costs.

See **COMMUNICATIONS** on **Page 8**

NEXT MESSAGE DEADLINE

The deadline for the articles for the Message for May and June is April

1. There is no subscription fee for this newsletter, however, all contributions are appreciated. Please mail to:

GSSA, P.O. Box 7325,
Macon, GA 31209.

The Georgia Message of AA is published by Area 16.

TREATMENT / treatment_facilities@aageorgia.org

I am responsible

By Jimmy S., Chair
and Willie S., Co-Chair
Area 16 Treatment Facilities
Committee

"I am responsible ...when anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. to always be there, And for that, I am responsible."

By the time the Message reaches you, we will have had our wonderful first of the year Georgia State Service Assembly weekend that was

held January 21, 2011 in Macon, Ga. There was unity and gratitude throughout the Assembly; it feels great to be sober today. I would like to thank you for the trust and confidence you have in me by advancing me from your Treatment Facilities Committee Co-Chair position to the Committee Chair position, I am truly honored and grateful to be of service. Also, I would like to welcome Willie S. to be a part of the Treatment Facilities Committee. He brings with him a great amount of shared experience, strength and hope.

At the Assembly, some successful and helpful information was shared at our 11:00 am and 9:30 pm workshops, about what Treatment Facili-

ties 12 Step service work is and what it is not. Included in the discussions was why the Treatment Committee emphasizes that all who carry the AA message into Facilities should have all of the Literature. "Outline the program of action, explaining how you made a self appraisal, how you straightened out your past and why you are now endeavoring to be helpful to him, It is important for him to realize that your attempt to pass this on to him plays a vital part in your own recovery" (Alcoholics Anonymous, Chapter 7, "Working with Others", page 94).

Also as of January 2011, the

See **TREATMENT** on **Page 8**

ARCHIVES / archives@aageorgia.org

Break out, be free, live!

By James R., Chair
and Claudia S., Co-Chair
Area 16 Archives Committee

We sometimes create a prison for ourselves, isolating ourselves from the beauty and meaning of life. Life is beautiful when we do not create padded walls with our pride. Life is fulfilling when we unite it with the God for our understanding purpose.

Break Out! Be free! Live!
I'm thankful for the God of my understanding's creation and the beauty it possesses. However, I can remember a time when I was mentally and physically sick as well as spiritually dead, although I didn't think so. After the last house on the block failed, I was just dead and my life was miserable. I have undergone quite a complete change, my friends. Well ya'll, I couldn't make it to the Forum in Albany in January but our Co-Chair Claudia S. came through with flying colors. I understand that everyone had a great time. I will

have a good time at the Southeast Cluster Forum in Midway this February.

Help me, therefore, to know the truth, to love it, to uphold it, to walk in it, and to be filled with it. All places and people are unimportant except as they fit into the plan and purpose of the God of their understanding. You're nobody until somebody loves you; and you are somebody only because God loves you. He is the one who makes you really important.

As we together trudge the road to our Happy Destiny, we shall be sustained in unity.

PI /CPC: PI/CPC@aageorgia.org

Out of the comfort zone

By Teri F., Chair
and Ed T., Co-Chair
Area 16 Public Information/
Cooperation with the Professional
Community Committee

Every Georgia State Service Assembly, I come away amazed at all the energy for service each of you brings to our workshops. Thank you once again for allowing me to serve as your PI/CPC Chair. However, in this article want to pose a question to you and offer some suggestions to help you get your committees going.

The question is... "Who makes up your committee?" Are you a committee of one? An assigned Chairperson, an Intergroup Chair? A Group Rep. with no committee to report to? Maybe you have volunteered to be a District Chair and are saying "Now what do I do?" At this point, it may be easy to grab a couple of spouses or friends and get started. That's a start, but there are people that want the opportunity to do service work but they don't know you or what you are trying to do. You will not get to know them if you stay in your comfort zone. In our

We get to do the work, our community learns what AA is and is not, and a host of new service workers have begun. Isn't this part of the magic of rotation?

district, we have three counties and two islands. We are so spread out one person cannot handle all of the region. As a solution, we need at least one rep from each county, if not each group in that county in order to meet the needs of our district. So how do you accomplish the task of getting everyone on board?

We have to let the groups know the purpose of the PI/CPC Committee. We can make a small display board, carry it to other meetings and find out if anyone is interested. Let people know who you are and what you are trying to do. Organize a monthly meeting where you can discuss projects, practice non-AA talks, and

review the workbooks and other literature to make sure you are staying on target. It would be great to have the Chairpersons of the various committees give a quick report to the District so the GSR's stay enthused and supportive. A time or two I have had Committee Chairs tell me in their reports "I give my report to Intergroup" - that's wonderful and maybe that process is working well, but maybe you would have increased success if you included scheduled attendance at District meetings to ensure you are reaching all of the people you're serving. At Assembly, Committee Chairs report to the Office Committee, the DCM's and the GSR's as well as their morning workshops. As Chairpersons, part of our service may be to develop the committee that assures the majority of our district is represented. We get to do the work, our community learns what AA is and is not, and a host of new service workers have begun. Isn't this part of the magic of rotation? To see the opportunities for service filled up with enthusiasm and love for the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous and to know you played a small part in the whole scheme of things. It is a blessing to me. Ed and I are here to assist your committee in any way we can.

COMMUNICATIONS / Continued from Page 6

Additionally, beginning with this issue, the Message will become “un-password-protected.” Except in issues where service resumes and the General Service Conference report are included, the Message will be available to read and print online without using the password. We hope that this encourages members to read the Message online instead of in the print version, if possible, in order to

reduce the number of issues that we print.

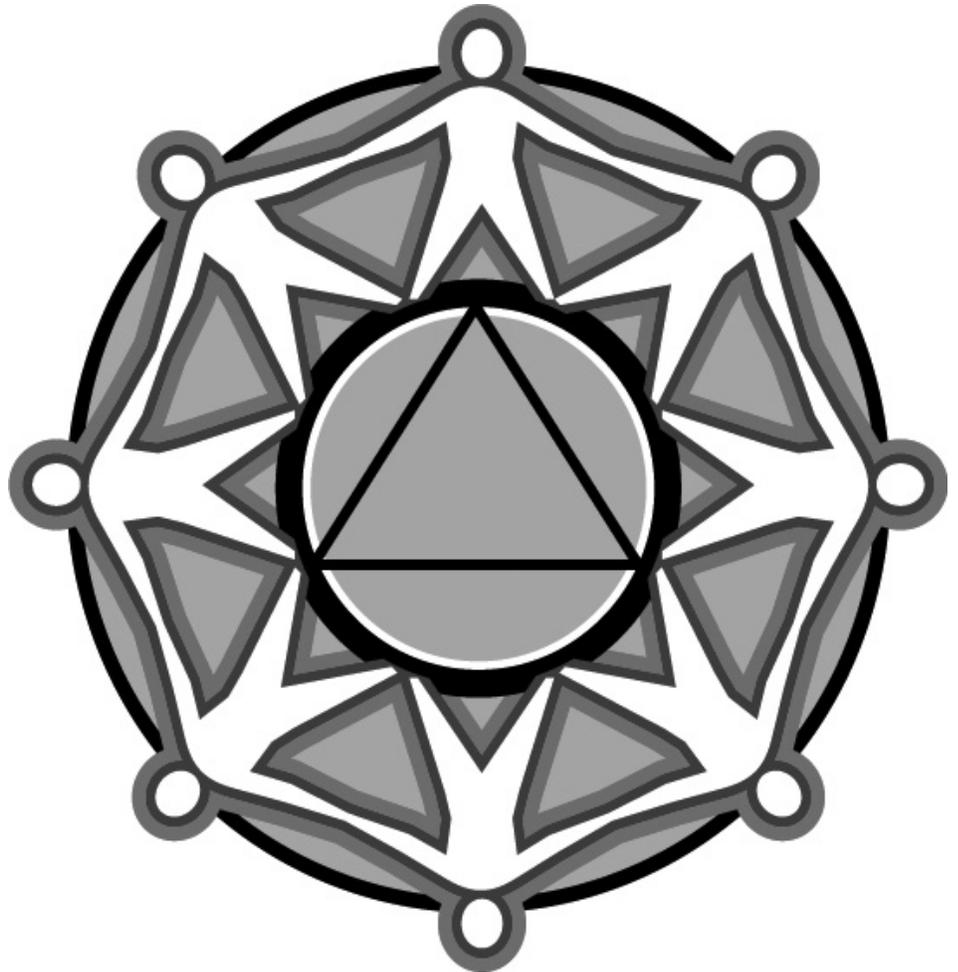
Finally, another warm, warm welcome to the new Communications Co-Chair, Bill F. Bill was a tremendous help during the Assembly, he brings the wisdom and experience of a number of years of sobriety. It is evident that he loves Alcoholics Anonymous, and I could not be happier to have him on board. I hope

to see everyone very soon. Don’t forget the District 17 Cluster Forum, March 12 in Carrollton. I had the opportunity to attend last year, and it was an amazing experience. Even though I barely understood a word of what was being said, the emotion that the speakers expressed brought me to tears. And fabulous food, as well. See you soon!

TREATMENT / Continued from Page 6

Treatment Facilities Committee added another service responsibility: the Special Needs / Accessibilities. When a District, Zone or Group in Area 16 feel a needs for these services, the requests will come through the Treatment Facilities Committee: “While there are no special AA members there are many members who have special needs. This would include those who may be hearing, visually, or speech impaired those who are homebound, chronically ill, and those who are developmentally disabled or who suffer from brain damage, stroke, etc. Whatever their disability may be, it is hoped that they would never be excluded from AA meetings, Twelve Step work or AA service.” (Special Needs / Accessibilities Workbook, Introduction)

The Treatment Committee is planning to conduct a workshop in June 2011 which will be held at the GSSA Macon, GA Central Office. It will be free. By the time you receive this issue of the GA Message, the final workshop plans and flyer should be on the web site. An e-mail to all the DCMs and GSRs will also be distributed; we hope to see all Treatment Facilities Representatives in Macon, GA. If any District, Zone, Group or Individual needs any assistance or information in regard to caring the AA message into Treatment Facilities, please call or e-mail me, Co-Chair Willie S., or let our Macon Central Office know.



“While there are no special AA members there are many members who have special needs. This would include those who may be hearing, visually, or speech impaired those who are homebound, chronically ill, and those who are developmentally disabled or who suffer from brain damage, stroke, etc. Whatever their disability may be, it is hoped that they would never be excluded from AA meetings, Twelve Step work or AA service.”

CALENDAR, GROUPS, ETC. / gssa@bellsouth.net

CALENDAR

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

February 26

Southeast Cluster Forum
Midway

March 12

District 17 Forum (Spanish)
Carrollton
(see flyer p. 14)

March 16

Sponsorship Workshop
Alkanon Club, Warner Robins

April 9

DCM Pre-Conference Meeting
Macon/GSSA
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

April 16

West Central Cluster Forum
Newnan
(see flyer p. 15)

May 1-7

61st General Service Conference
New York

NEW GROUPS

District 7 Zone A

Roberta Group
Counseling Center
80 Wright Ave., Roberta, GA
31078

Meets on Tuesday and Thursday
nights at 7 p.m. open discussion

District 13 Zone I

Common Journey Group
Cobb Community Church
4649 Sandy Plains Rd., Marietta,
GA 30066

Meets on Wednesday night at 7
p.m. closed discussion

District 15 Zone A

Grateful Heart Group
1st Presbyterian Church
520 Tibbs Rd., Room #124,
Dalton, GA

Meets on Tuesday and Saturday
night at 8 p.m. open discussion

North Georgia Overcomers
Group

Seventh Day Adventist Church
367 Church St., Cleveland, GA
30528

Meets on Sunday and Tuesday
at 7 p.m.

District 16 Zone A

Primary Purpose Group
1st Methodist Church
1131 Washington St., Clarkes-
ville, GA 30523

Meets on Saturday night 8 p.m.
open discussion

District 16 Zone C

Friendship Group
Fusion Church
3589 Carter Rd., Buford, GA
30518

Meets Sunday at 6:30 p.m. open
speaker

District 17

Alegria De Vivir
203 Richardson Rd., Suite 10,
Calhoun, GA 30701

Meets daily at 8 p.m. open dis-
cussion

**BIRTHDAY
CONTRIBUTIONS**

District 5, Zone A

Jean McC January 9, 1980
Pembroke Group
Frank M. December 15, 2001

District 5, Zone D

Brooke B.
Garden Variety Group

District 9

Karin G.
East Highland Group

District 11, Zone B

Deb C. January 13, 1995
Olde Towne Group

District 12, Zone A

Fran M. October 20, 2004
New Perceptions Group

District 13, Zone B

Roger February 2, 2007
Just 4 Today Group

District 14, Zone A

Mary C. December 23, 2007
Rome Group

**THINGS WE
CANNOT CHANGE**

Lyn D.

Home Group: Clarkston 12 Step
Group
Tucker, GA
Sobriety Date: October 25, 1983
Passed Away: January 18, 2011

Jerry H.

Past Delegate 1998/1999 Panel 48
Home Group: Mt. Vernon Group
Atlanta, GA
Sobriety Date: June 4, 1984
Passed Away: January 30, 2011

Gay G.

Home Group: Clarkston 12 Step
Group
Clarkston, GA
Past Delegate 1988/1989 Panel 38
Southeast Regional Trustee 1993-
1997
Sobriety Date: May 1976
Passed Away: January 19, 2011

MARRIOTT MACON CITY CENTER

RESERVATIONS: NEED A ROOM AT THE
MARRIOTT FOR ASSEMBLY? CALL (478)
621-5300. PLEASE REMEMBER TO TELL
THEM THAT YOU ARE WITH THE GEOR-
GIA STATE SERVICE ASSEMBLY, TO GET
THE GROUP RATE. ALSO REMEMBER
PRIOR TO ASSEMBLY CUT-OFF DATE IS
MAY 6, 2011 FOR GROUP RATE.

ASSEMBLY MINUTES

Georgia State (Area 16) Assembly Weekend Marriott Macon City Center, Macon, January 23, 2011

David M., Area 16 Chairperson, opened the business session of the Area 16 Service Assembly with the Serenity Prayer. The meeting was opened at 9 a.m.

Delegate Report – Patty L.

Happy New Year! It's great to be here with you all this weekend. Much thanks to everyone that participated in our meetings yesterday. Welcome to all of you, especially first timers to the Assembly. Welcome to Don M. and Ernie M. in their new roles as Area Treasurer and Area Secretary. During our Business Meeting this morning, we will ask by a show of hands to confirm our new Area Committee Chairs. We have Jimmy S. and Willy S. for Treatment Chair and Co-Chair and Harold W. and Jim T. as Corrections Chair and Co-Chair. In addition, we will confirm Bill F. as Communications Co-Chair. I very much appreciate all of them and their commitment to AA.

Last year we provided feedback from Area 16 on three topics being considered by the General Service Conference. First, we had a roundtable discussion at our September Assembly on the use of full faces of actors in the AA videos. The roundtable had good attendance and much discussion on the topic. The group seemed to lean more towards the opinion that we should not allow full faced of actors in AA videos. In addition to their comments, the group

included a list of suggestions.

Secondly, we completed surveys and had a roundtable discussion in September on Anonymity and Social Media. We had a tremendous response regarding social media. It is clearly an area that we need to continue discussing. The surveys indicated that many of our members (based on the sample that completed the survey) use social media websites. Generally they are comfortable posting comments that are AA related without mentioning AA. The roundtable discussion highlighted the need for AA members to understand the public/private settings on social media websites. Both of these efforts resulted in detailed reports being sent to the Chair of the Trustees' Committee that are addressing these issues.

Lastly, we completed surveys and had a roundtable discussion on the Grapevine and LaViña. These survey responses were combined with responses from 61 other Area to total over 8,000 responses. A summary document (The Share Report) was provided as well as the detailed responses to the Grapevine Board of Directors. We sent the report from our roundtable discussion directly to the Grapevine Board Chair. Let's look at a few of the graphs depicting the survey responses from all of the Areas.

As I stated, there are 62 Areas in the US and Canada included in the Share Report (Shared Area Delegate project). The respondents were subscribers and non-subscribers. Of the approx. 8,000 responses, 96% think that it is important that the AA Grapevine magazine continue. The top two uses of the Grapevine are personal recovery at 54.49% and meetings at 11.42%. The survey results show a surprisingly low percentage for jails at 6.2%. This is consistent with what the respondents state as the purpose of the Grapevine. The top three purposes were personal recovery at 54.79%, carrying the message at 18.74% and meeting on print at 10.61%. Jails made up 8.22% of the responses on the purpose. When

asked what they wanted to change about the Grapevine, almost 50% of the respondents said nothing. Content and structural were the next two responses at 18.34% and 13.64% respectively. Of the non-subscribers, almost half said they would subscribe if the Grapevine were offered digitally. On the topic of price, 53% said the Grapevine should be priced to be self-supporting. Seven Areas contributed Spanish surveys about the La Viña. Those results indicated that 82.56% use the La Viña for recovery, 60.4% for PI/CPC and 4.07% for jails. The purpose of La Viña was primarily recovery at 74.19%, 16.13% was meeting in print and 2.3% jails. In response to the question of "what would you like to change?" 57.89% said nothing, 25.44% content and 14.91% structural. The La Viña surveys indicated that 77% of respondents think the magazine should be priced to be self-supporting. It is interesting to me that we voted to increase the expense by eliminating staples with the perfect binding format for jails specifically and the use and purpose questions responses do not reflect high numbers for jails. All of these reports are available on our website.

In May, we will be accepting nominations for Delegate. Our Georgia Service Manual outlines the qualifications and duties of our Delegate and Alternate Delegate. In addition, you will find our election process outlined in the Manual. Each year we invite a quest to our Assembly. This September we will invite a guest from our General Service Office (more to come on who will be with us).

In 2011, GSO will be conducting a membership survey upon approval by the 21st General Service Conference. This survey is usually conducted every three years. In November, GSO hired a new Grapevine Executive Editor/Publisher. Her name is Ami Brophy. She has already engaged with the Fellowship by attending our Southeast Regional Forum that was held in December. I expect that we will see some changes with

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Grapevine as Ami and the Grapevine Board tackle the financial challenges and analyze the survey results. We already have the Grapevine and La Viña published as a digital magazine. The subscription for the Grapevine is \$19.97/year and La Viña is \$9.97/year. The Grapevine and La Viña lost \$325K for the first nine months of 2010.

The General Service Office finances for the first 9 months of 2010 resulted in a profit of \$917K. Our literature sales were 12% under budget and group contributions were 2.39% better than budget. Operating expenses were almost \$600K less than budget. The increase in group contributions and decrease in expenses offset the decline in literature sales to result in an operating profit. Our Reserve Fund has 9.5 months operating expense. I will provide a report of 2010 year end financials at our May Assembly.

In response to three 60th General Service Conference recommendations, there is a call for stories from AA members. The specific requests are:

- Stories that reflect a wide range of spiritual experiences from AA member who, with any belief or non-belief, have found a solution to the concept of spirituality and sobriety in Alcoholics Anonymous.
- Stories to update the pamphlet "AA and the Armed Services" from AA members that have recent experience inactive duty or veterans of the armed forces.
- Stories that humanize the impact of Seventh Tradition monies to communicate to the Fellowship the importance of self-support.

Manuscripts should be 500-800 words and double spaced. Include your name and address on a separate piece of paper. All author's anonymity will be observed. The deadline for submitting stories is February 15, 2011. They can be emailed to literature@aa.org, or mailed to Literature Coordinator at General Service Office, Box 459, Grand Central Station, and New York, NY 10163. See the Box 459 Winter Edition for more informa-

tion.

In December, I attended the Southeast Regional Forum in Myrtle Beach, SC. It was rainy and cold! Thank goodness we didn't have to leave the hotel. The weekend was full of presentations, sharing sessions and workshops. A Regional Forum is an opportunity for the General Service Board, General Service Office and Grapevine Board and Grapevine staff to communicate directly with the Fellowship. These forums were originally called "mini-conferences" and the first one was held right here in Area 16 in 1975. After the second "mini-conference" the following year, the name was changed to Regional Forum and it was determined that we would have one per region every other year. Our Forum this year was chaired by El N., our regional trustee. Ward Ewing, the General Service Board Chairman and Phyllis H., our General Manager of GSO were in attendance along with several other trustees and GSO staff. It is a great opportunity to meet and get to know these people that are working very hard for AA. Some of them are paid (GSO staff) and some are volunteers (trustees).

The sharing sessions at the Forum were very lively and members asked questions of the trustees and GSO staff. All of the presentations were very well done and informative. The workshops were smaller sharing sessions and a great opportunity to hear a lot of experience on specific topics. I led a workshop on self-support. We discussed personal, group and service level self-support. It was great to hear from people all over the southeast region. A Regional Forum is quite a unique experience in AA. I would encourage you to attend one if it is possible for you. Our next Southeast Regional Forum will be held in Boca Raton, FL November 9-11, 2012.

Next week I will attend the General Service Board Meeting as the 61st Conference Literature Committee Chair. I will be in New York for the Trustees Committee Meetings and the Board Meeting as an observer.

Thank you for allowing me and trusting me to be your Delegate. I am going to end by showing you our latest Public Service Announcement designed for young people.

Questions:

Where will the PSA be shown? PI/CPC Committee can use to send to local radio/TV stations. GSO will also send then PSAs to national networks. GSO has purchased a service that will track the PSAs playtime by network. That does not apply to the PSAs sent out by the local committees.

Why is the GV so far in the hole? We have higher costs than revenue. Costs continue to go up. Decisions that we have made in the past like adding perfect binding to remove staples have increased our production costs. The magazine industry is in crisis as online magazines and newspapers are taking the place of paper magazines. The digital version will hopefully bring in new revenue. .

Will the GV be available on Kindle or other networks? The Grapevine and La Viña are currently in the digital format and we will be moving towards an eBook format. The Big Book will be in eBook format by the end of the year.

With economy the way it is, why do we think there is an increase of group in contributions? This is a nine month view. I don't know why we are seeing an increase. We'll see where we are at the end of the year. We did implement online contributions in 2010 and it may be a factor.

With jail percentage so low are we looking at cutting out perfect binding? The Grapevine Board is looking at every opportunity to improve the financial position.

GV cannot accept contributions from us. Is there any way it could be changed?

The Grapevine Board is looking at the option of allowing contributions and has added this topic to the General Service Conference Agenda (This was learned at our General Service Board

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Meeting the weekend after Assembly). For now, we can buy more subscriptions especially the digital subscription. That would be a way to support the Grapevine and increase revenue.

The business meeting opened at 9:50 am.

BUSINESS MEETING

Final report 57th Pre-paid Convention, Athens, GA - Jeff Y.:

The convention committee hosted by District 16 thanked all who made the convention possible. They prepared a manual (notebook) from their convention and have passed it on to the convention committee for Gainesville and Calloway Gardens. The Athens Hilton (host hotel) provided an atmosphere of hospitality which was essential to the convention. The Golf Tournament and Poker Run went well and the weekend was topped off with a live band and "Halloween" costume event that was enjoyed by all. The committee was provided with \$37,000.00 from the pre-paid convention funds and came in under budget returning \$1,647.00 to the new area treasurer.

Report of the 58th Prepaid Convention, Gainesville, GA - Rebecca T.:

The 2011 Prepaid Convention will be held at the Georgia Mountain Center, Gainesville, GA, October 20-23, 2011. The committee is prepared to meet the challenges presented by Athens and will surpass them.

Athens was extremely helpful. Gainesville has a wide variety of hotels and rates available. Please see flyer in the Message and you can register online. Speakers and activities are listed on flyer.

Secretary Report - Ernie M.

Attendance report for the January Assembly:

DCMs	41
Alt DCMs	27
District Secretary/Treasurer	9
GSRs	238
Alt GSRs	70

Group Secretary/Treasurers	29
Grapevine Reps	14
Treatment Facility Reps	12
Correctional Facility Reps	7
Communications Reps	8
PI/CPC Reps	6
Archives Reps	7
Members	102
Total Attendance	570

Ernie M. reported that the Southwest Cluster Forum was held in Albany earlier this month and what a great job (awesome skits!) Attendance was over 100. He reminded that group updates for Area directory should be sent in so online directory can be updated monthly. Please use the motion forms provided in Secretary/Treasurer packets and if these get into the Area Office in a timely manner they can be printed in the Message. Please submit through your district to Area Office.

On your Agenda (blue sheet) is printed the "username" and "password" for you access to protected areas of the Georgia Website: aageorgia.org. He also commented that the number of members attending the Assembly is awesome. He also encouraged more people to attend the Assembly to learn what is happening at the state level to enhance participation in all levels of service work.

Treasurer Report – Don M.

Don reiterated Patty L.'s comments from earlier that contributions to GSO were up; however those to the GSSA are down. He challenged the groups to increase area contributions.

Don recognized the Bainbridge Group who at the end of 2010 gave a contribution of \$1 for each member's year of sobriety. He recognized Zones 2B and 5A with 100% contribution to GSSA and the Prepaid Convention funds. He recognized Zones 1B, 5C, and 11B for 100% contribution to GSSA. Don noted that quite a few Zones missed by only 1 or 2 group contribution to GSSA and the Prepaid and challenged the DCMs to encourage their groups to contribute. The cost of services provided by GSSA is

\$10/member per year and the cost to Groups is \$248.61/year.

In review of the prepaid convention's funds, the Athens convention was budgeted \$39,250. They received \$37,000 and returned \$1,647.15 for a total of \$3,897.15 under the budgeted amount.

Georgia Alcoholic Anonymous is a 501(c)(3) organization which means that we are a tax exempt organization and by our own rules we can receive up to a \$3,000 yearly donation "for anyone who hits the lottery". The cost of this Assembly is \$17.50 per person attending and with that Don read the "Green Card" and encourages all groups to read at the beginning of their group meeting. He called for the baskets to be passed "and if you can drop \$17.50 or more please do so - - if you can't , then just give what you can."

Alternate Delegate Report - Tom H.

Tom H. congratulated Athens again for a great convention. Top 5% of all conventions I have attended. He then went over the dates for the upcoming events in Georgia (see the statewide functions page on the website).

- Southeast Cluster Forum – Feb 26th Midway
- Dist. 17 – Spanish Cluster Forum– Mar 12th, Carrollton
- Pre-Conference Meeting – DCM's w/ Delegate – Apr 9th 11am - Area Office
- West Central Cluster – April 16th – Noonan
- GSSA Assembly May 20-22 – Macon

Tom H. then recognized Tamera and her volunteers for all the hard work setting up Assembly.

Old Business:

- Approval minutes from the Sept 19, 2010 business meeting as printed in the November/December Message 2010. Motion made by Jerry L., 14C and Seconded by Steven F., 13F to approve minutes as published. Unanimously approved.

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New Business:

• Approval of New Chairs and Co-chairs of Committees:

Jimmy S. & Willie S. as Chair and Co-Chair – Treatment Committee

Harold W. and Jim T. as Chair and Co-Chair- Corrections Committee

Bill F. Co-Chair – Communications Committee

Approved unanimously by show of hands.

• Bid for 2013 Prepaid Convention - As per GA AA Service Manual (page 31)

District 13 as represented by Art H., presented a bid for the 60th GA Pre-Paid Convention, Oct 17-20, 2013 in Atlanta, GA

District 6 as represented by Rhett K., presented a bid for the 60th GA Pre-Paid Convention, Oct 17-20, 2013 in

Columbus, GA

GSRs need to take this information back to the groups and a vote will be taken at the May Assembly to determine which venue will host the 60th Pre-Paid Convention.

General Sharing: “Open Mike”:

• Dave, 15B asked question concerning the availability and cost of coffee for convention.

Art H., Atlanta Bid Committee stated that they are aware that this is always a problem, but that they felt they had a good price and would confirm price at May Assembly.

With no further business:

• Dianna D., Alt GSR, 13E., Motion to Adjourn

• Sean M., GSR, 10B Seconded Motion

Unanimously Approved. Meeting

ended at 10:57am with the Lord’s Prayer.

Area16

Gssa@2006

The next Georgia

State Service

Assembly will be

held May 20-22 in

Macon. Hope to

see you there!

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Thanking you

**By Chuck L.
Editor, Georgia Message of AA**

Two years ago you and Kris J., then Communications Committee chair, entrusted me with the job of editor of The Georgia Message of AA. I approached the job with some trepidation as it had been years since I had been involved with getting a publication of any type out on a regular schedule but things were different this time – this time I was sober. This time due to the twelve steps, good sponsorship, a God of my understanding and you people I was better equipped to handle the responsibility and pressures. I knew that whatever problem came up WE and not I could handle it. It has been an awesome two years!

When taking the job I was made aware that it has no set term. Once in, I could determine how long I would serve. The Alcoholic I was when I walked into the rooms of AA would

have seen that as an opportunity to camp out for a very long time. The person I am today does not. I was raised in AA by very hardcore, tradition loving, service oriented sober alcoholics whose lessons were as evident in their actions as much as in their words. I learned in no uncertain terms that the spirit of rotation is crucial for my sobriety as well as that of others and applies to all areas of service. For that reason I have decided to rotate out and let someone else experience the blessings of the position.

I can not leave without expressing my thanks to those AAs who have made the Georgia Message of AA what it is today. Thanks to Kris J. for laying the groundwork. He blazed the trail, much of what the message is today is due to his hard work. Thanks to Debra, Janie, Jane, Karen and all the contributing editors who made my job easy. Thanks to all the trusted servants and AAs at large for your excellent articles. Thanks to Tamera at GSSA whose tireless work in keeping up with the details of the calendar, Assembly Agendas and so many other things is so important to all of us. Thanks to Luis who has toiled long and hard to

get the message out in Spanish. Then there is my invaluable cohort in crime Shari M. Shari is a gifted artisan. She takes the words, works her magic and lays out a publication we can all be proud of. Last but certainly not least thanks to everyone in Area 16 who reads, gives feedback and supports the Georgia Message of AA. Getting the message out is definitely a group effort.

This opportunity to serve has bestowed many blessings. Friendships have been forged. My understanding and belief in the traditions and inner workings of AA have grown exponentially. But the realization of just how easy it is to get the job done when everyone’s only concern is to be of service and carry the message has been one of the greatest. Not once have I encountered runaway egos or self-centered motives only concern and love for fellow Alcoholics and a sincere desire to serve. I’ve a long history of service but still stand in awe at how much growth potential it holds. It has been an honor to serve and I thank you all for allowing me to reap the rewards simply by being of service!



PRESENTADO POR EL DISTRITO # 17, AREA # 16

SABADO 12 DE MARZO DEL 2011
LUGAR: GRUPO BENDITO AMANECER
2220 ATLANTA RD SUITE # 114
SMYRNA, GA 30080



"SOMOS RESPONSABLES DEL FUTURO DE A.A. – QUE COMIENZE CON NOSOTROS".

a) Alcoholicos Anonimos en La era Digital.

- 1. Poniendo nuestras tradiciones en practica en la era digital**
- 2. Llevando el mensaje de A.A. en linea.**
- 3. La revista LA VINA "La reunion impresa de A.A. y mas.**

b) Una Conciencia De Grupo Informada: La Voz De A.A.:

- 1. El automantenimiento: donde se mezclan la espiritualidad y el dinero. M.C.D Amado.**
- 2. La Humildad-aceptar la conciencia de grupo.: Grupo Mexico lindo.**
- 3. Una conciencia de grupo informada- el uso de los tres legados.: Grupo S. Latina**

c) La diversidad En A.A.:

- 1. Aqui se habla el lenguaje del Corazon. :Grupo Bendito Amanecer.**
- 2. La mano de A.A.-inclusiva nunca exclusiva.: Grupo Primero De Noviembre.**
- 3. La quinta tradicion-nuestro objetivo primordial.: Oficina intergrupual.**

d) El Apadrinamiento:

- 1. La importancia del grupo base.: Grupo Latinos 2000.**
- 2. Guiar con el ejemplo- atraccion no promocion.: Grupo Tercer Legado.**
- 3. Recuperacion, Unidad, y Servicio.: Grupo recuperacion Hispana.**

3.30: AM:REGISTRACIONES- 9.00 AM A 12 DEL MEDIO DIA PROGRAMA Y EXPOSICION DE LOS TEMAS.

WEST CENTRAL CLUSTER FORUM

(WHERE)

**ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
576 ROSCOE RD.
NEWNAN, GA. 30263**

(WHEN)

**SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2011
REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 8:30 A.M.
PROGRAM: FROM 9:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.
LUNCH: GRILLED BURGERS AND DOGS**

“WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR A.A.’S FUTURE – LET IT BEGIN WITH US”

a) ALCOHOLICS IN A DIGITAL AGE:

- 1) PRACTICING OUR TRADITIONS IN A DIGITAL AGE. – DIST. 7B
- 2) CARRYING A.A.’S TRADITIONS ONLINE – DIST. 10C
- 3) GRAPEVINE A.A.’S MEETING IN PRINT AND MORE... -DIST. 10D

b) AN INFORMED GROUP CONSCIENCE: THE VOICE A.A.:

- 1) SELF-SUPPORT: WHERE DO MONEY AND SPIRITUALITY MIX? - DIST. 11C
- 2) HUMILITY: ACCEPTING THE GROUP CONSCIENCE.- DIST. 7A
- 3) AN INFORMED GROUP CONSCIENCE: USING THE THREE LEGACIES.-DIST.6

c) DIVERSITY IN A.A.:

- 1) THE LANGUAGE OF THE HEART IS SPOKEN HERE. – DIST. 10A
- 2) THE HAND OF A.A.: INCLUSIVE, NEVER EXCLUSIVE. DIST. 10C
- 3) TRADITION FIVE OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE. –DIST.6

d) SPONSORSHIP:

- 1) IMPORTANCE OF A HOME GROUP. –DIST. 10A
- 2) LEADING BY EXAMPLE:ATTRACTION NOT PROMOTION.- DIST.7A
- 3) RECOVERY , UNITY, SERVICE.-DIST.7B

AA's Future Begins with Us

58th Georgia State Pre-Paid Convention
Georgia Mountain Center
Gainesville, GA
October 20 - 23, 2011

Featured Speakers:

Mari G - Toronto, ON

Charlie Y - Savannah, GA

Steve S - Sherman Oaks, CA

Angie P - Cincinnati, OH

Donna H - Huntley, MT

Don M - Louisville, KY

Ellen C - Addison, TX (Al-Anon)

****Holiday Inn (Host Hotel)**
\$95 single / \$105 double
Breakfast included
770-531-0907

**** Hampton Inn (Host Hotel)**
\$85 room rate
Breakfast included
770-503-0300

Hilton Garden Inn
\$89 single / \$105 double
Breakfast included
770-532-3396

Days Inn
\$60 room rate
Continental breakfast
770-535-8100

Super 8
\$60 room rate
Continental breakfast
770-533-9009

IMPORTANT: Reserve rooms by September 29th & specify 58th Georgia Prepaid Convention to guarantee block rate

Name: _____ E-Mail: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Name on Badge: _____ Home Group: _____

*** Out of state registration fee \$25.00 AA&Al-Anon and \$10.00 Alateen (Due at registration) payable to 58th GA State Prepaid Convention*** Mail registration form to: 58th Prepaid Convention, P.O. Box 3314, Cumming, GA 30028

Group: AA Al-Anon Alateen

Interested in Volunteering: Contact by phone: _____ or e-Mail above: _____

Participate in following activities: Golf Motorcycle Poker Run Boat Ride

Special Needs: Wheelchair Sight Hearing Other _____

See state web-site www.aageorgia.org for on-line registration & printable registration form .
For more information e-mail us at 58thprepaid@aageorgia.org