

Georgia State Service Assembly  
Business Meeting Minutes  
Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
Pending Approval at the September 2018 Business Meeting

**Delegate's Report—Rick M.**

*The Delegate's full report is published online at [aageorgia.org](http://aageorgia.org). The final GSO report will be available in September.*

Thank you all for allowing me to participate in this so rewarding responsibility. My assigned conference committees are Literature and International Conventions and Regional Forums. Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:30am was opening session. We had 136 attendees. It was here that I felt the first of many spiritual experiences- answering to roll call and giving our Area 16 highlights (I was the first up for the Southeast Region). I was incredibly grateful to feel a part of a much bigger historical experience happening at that very moment; nothing in my life's experience compares.

Before I get into the Agenda, let me give you some definitions: Conference Advisory Actions represent recommendations put forward by the standing committees of the General Service Conference that have been discussed, voted on and approved by the Conference body during general sessions. Committee Considerations reflect items discussed by each committee that have been presented to the full Conference body in the form of each committee's report, but have not been presented for any additional Conference action. I have added some additional commentary where I thought appropriate or, for additional clarity. There are 56 total Actions of the 68<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference.

**Agenda**

A. The theme for the 2019 General Service Conference be: "Our Big Book – 80 Years, 71 Languages."

B. The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2019 General Service Conference:  
Yesterday's World – Our Legacies Begin  
Today's World – Demonstrating Integrity, Anonymity and Service  
Tomorrow's World – Courage to be Vigilant

C. The following be the workshop topic for the 2019 General Service Conference: "Clarity of Purpose – Addressing the Needs of Our Meetings"

E. Discussed report on the Conference Agenda Process from the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference.

*Additional Committee Consideration:*

The committee requested the trustees' committee create a process for area delegate review of proposed agenda items that were not forwarded to a Conference committee and bring a report to the 2019 Conference Committee on Agenda.

### **Cooperation with the Professional Community**

**A. Consider revisions to: "A.A. as a Resource for the Health Care Professional."**

*At the bottom of page 7, ...even in jails, institutions or on military bases...*

*...On page 10, in the section "How to Contact A.A." Additionally, online A.A. meetings are available, which members of the military and others often use when they are ~~deployed~~ in places where there are no meetings nearby.*

**PASSED as amended (striking "deployed")**

**C. Consider revisions to the pamphlet "Members of the Clergy Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous"**

*Proposed insertion: What if you are a Chaplain in the Military? ...Online meetings...for those members of the military who may be deployed, and chaplains can help get them connected electronically through correspondence groups.*

**PASSED as amended striking "deployed"**

**B. Consider revisions to: "If You Are a Professional**

*On page 5, in the last para. of the section "How to Make Referrals to A.A.":*

*G.S.O...for help and information.... www.aa.org can aid in finding local resources...online A.A. meetings are available, which members of the military...often use when...deployed in places where there are no meetings nearby.*

**PASSED as amended striking "deployed"**

**D. The committee recommended the A.A. World Services, Inc. develop a company page on LinkedIn with the following goals in mind:**

Offer an additional **digital resource** to aa.org, broaden reach of the **About A.A.** newsletter, raise awareness of exhibits at professional conferences, **expand the network of friends** and deepen the pool of Class A trustees, reinforce the continuing relevance and efficacy of A.A. to professionals.

**Passed.**

#### **Committee Considerations**

- The committee strongly suggested that those creating the LinkedIn company page consider adding a disclaimer or explanation clarifying that A.A. is not affiliated with any of the organizations who appear in promoted content on the LinkedIn company page.

*As you can see, CPC was also very busy!*

#### **Corrections**

- A. **Considered request to create a pamphlet for inmates who are to be released after long term incarceration.**

### **TOOK NO ACTION**

**Lots of discussion on this item. Suggestion: Add verbiage to make pre-release program more effective.**

#### Committee Considerations

- The committee discussed the request to create a pamphlet for inmates who will be released after long-term incarceration and took no action. The committee suggested that correction service materials be revised for this purpose.
- The committee asked the trustees' Committee on Corrections to update the service materials, "A.A. Corrections Prerelease Contact Information - For A.A.s on the Inside" and "A.A. Corrections Prerelease Contact Information - For A.A.s on the Outside" with excerpts from existing literature.
- The committee suggested that the trustees' Committee on Corrections create a letter to corrections professionals to raise awareness about prerelease and Bridging the Gap volunteers.
- The committee noted that many correctional facilities have increased their security restrictions for paper materials and suggests the trustees' Committee on Corrections continue to work with the Publishing Department to insure access to A.A. materials for incarcerated alcoholics.

*We have an opportunity to put forth a recommendation to this committee for consideration in 2019.*

### **Finance**

It was recommended that:

14. The Conference-approved maximum annual contribution from an individual A.A. member to the General Service Board be increased from \$3,000 to \$5,000.

#### ***Additional Committee Consideration:***

**Considered developing a method to standardize increases to the limits on individual contributions and bequests to the General Service Board.**

Took No Action

#### Committee Considerations

The committee reviewed the Self-Support Packet and made the following suggestions to the Publishing Department:

- Adding language regarding group level electronic contributions, passing the "virtual" basket, to the section Passing the Basket in the service piece "The A.A. Group Treasurer" and be included in the pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix" and the Guidelines on Finance.

The committee requested that when A.A.W.S. develops an A.A. app that self-support information be easily accessible.

## **Grapevine**

It was recommended that:

15. AA Grapevine, Inc. allow sales of Grapevine and La Viña books, single-issue magazines (as available), and other products to non-AA entities, such as (but not limited to) hospitals, treatment centers and book stores. [Note: As a current practice, AA Grapevine, Inc. does not seek outside sales for magazine subscriptions.]

16. AA Grapevine, Inc. continue to seek opportunities to expand bulk sales. [Note: AA Grapevine, Inc. currently offers volume discounts and will respond to requests, rather than solicit sales from outside entities.]

17. AA Grapevine, Inc. provide notification to A.A. World Services' list of non-A.A. entities to let them know that they can now purchase AA Grapevine and La Viña books, single-issue magazines (as available) and other products.

18. La Viña be published at its current frequency of six times per year as a service to the Fellowship, with perfect binding, at 68 pages, and in full color.

19. The revised pamphlet "AA Grapevine and La Viña: Our Meetings in Print" be approved and the title changed to "AA Grapevine and La Viña: Our Meetings in Print and Other Media."

The committee agreed to forward to the AA Grapevine Corporate Board the suggestion that in the year 2019 or later Grapevine produce the following items:

1. Our Twelve Steps II (working title)

Stories of experience by members about our Twelve Steps (our last Step book was in 2011).

2. All About Grapevine Reps (working title) Helpful and inspiring stories by A.A. members doing service with Grapevine and La Viña.

3. Prayer & Meditation (working title) A collection of stories by A.A. members about the many ways they practice Step Eleven.

4. A.A. & Families (working title) Stories by A.A. members that illustrate the many ways alcoholism and A.A. has touched our families.

5. Hispanic Members Doing Service in A.A. (working title) A collection of stories published in La Viña magazine by members getting sober and active, doing service and carrying the A.A. message.

FYI - Stories by Women in AA in Spanish coming in 2019/2020 (Birthday of La Viña!)

Committee Considerations

The committee reviewed the 2018 Grapevine social media report regarding Instagram, Facebook, and Google for Nonprofits and suggests that A.A. Grapevine, Inc. continue to explore a social media strategy in their forthcoming strategic plan, considering issues regarding anonymity, security, affiliation, outside contributions, privacy and promotion.

## **Literature**

22. The revised pamphlet “A.A. for the Woman,” retitled “Experience, Strength and Hope: Women in A.A.,” be approved.

23. The revised pamphlet “A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic,” retitled “Experience, Strength and Hope: LGBTQ Alcoholics in A.A.,” be approved with minor edits provided by Publishing regarding use of gender specific language.

24. The revised pamphlet “Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and its Services” be approved.

25. The draft pamphlet “Experience, Strength and Hope: A.A. for Alcoholics with Mental Health Issues – and their sponsors” be approved.

### **E. Considered proposed revisions to *Alcoholics Anonymous*:**

1. Add appendix reflecting Library of Congress recognition: **FAILED**
2. Add the A.A. Preamble and Responsibility Statement: **TOOK NO ACTION**
3. Add endnote to Bill W.’s story acknowledging co-founder, Bob S.: **TOOK NO ACTION**

**F. Requested:** add a section on anonymity to the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship.” **PASSED** – Progress report or draft to 2019 General Service Conference.

**G. Requested** change the subtitle of the pamphlet: “G.S.R. General Service Representative: May Be the Most Important Job in A.A.” to: “G.S.R. General Service Representative “The Link Between Your Group and A.A. as a Whole.” - **PASSED**

**H. Requested:** re-insert text that was removed from the book *Living Sober*. **PASSED**

**I. Request** to update the video “Your A.A. General Service Office, the Grapevine and the General Service Structure.” **PASSED** – Progress report or draft updated video to 2019 General Service Conference

**J. Requested** that A.A. (U.S./Canada) publish “The God Word” (a pamphlet published by the General Service Board of A.A., Great Britain). (Area 14 too)  
**PASSED** – Adopted by AAWS with minor editorial changes

**K. Request** for the development of a pamphlet based upon A.A.’s Three Legacies.  
**PASSED** – Progress report or draft to 2019

General Service Conference.

**L.** Considered request development of a new book combining *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* with *Twelve Concepts for World Service*. **FAILS**

**M.** Request for the development of a new pamphlet for Spanish-speaking women alcoholics. **PASSED** – Progress report or draft to 2019 General Service Conference.

***Additional Committee Considerations (some)***

**to Trustees Committee on Literature:**

Request for the development of a pamphlet for atheist and agnostic members. **TOOK NO ACTION**

Looking forward to progress reports or draft pamphlets to 2019 General Service Conference:

“The Twelve Traditions Illustrated”

“Too Young?”

“Young People and A.A.”

Committee Considerations

- The committee reviewed the trustees’ Literature Committee report on “Language Related to Safety in A.A. Literature.” The committee requested that the trustees’ Literature Committee develop text regarding safety in A.A. to be included in *Living Sober* and the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship,” and bring back the draft text to the 2019 Conference Committee on Literature.

**Policy/Admissions**

It was recommended that:

B. Process for polling the General Service Conference between annual Conference meetings. - **PASSED**

***Additional Committee Considerations:***

Date: April 25 – May 1, 2021 Accepted for the 71<sup>st</sup> General Service Conference

Develop a policy for the use of the Conference dashboard. Develop an information sheet that reflects shared experience and guidance on usage of the conference dashboard.

**Public Information**

It was recommended that:

36. The video PSA “Changes” be approved with the following revision: That the line “That’s where A.A. came to my rescue” be replaced with “A.A. offered a solution.”

37. In addition to the work of local committees, the video PSA, “Changes” be centrally distributed, tracked and evaluated at a cost not to exceed \$42,000 and that the information gathered from the process be forwarded to the 2019 Conference Public Information Committee for their review.

38. The Young People’s Video submission be approved.

**C. 1.** Revisions to the pamphlet “Understanding Anonymity” with expanded content on Traditions Eleven and Twelve and adds information related to safety in A.A. **PASSED**

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40. The trustees’ Committee on Public Information develop language reflecting that A.A.’s anonymity Traditions are not a cloak protecting criminal or inappropriate behavior and that calling the proper authorities does not go against any A.A. Traditions. A progress report or draft language is requested to be brought back to the 2019 Conference Committee on Public Information.

41. The updated pamphlet “A Brief Guide to Alcoholics Anonymous” be approved.

42. A progress report including website analytics and the usefulness and effectiveness of the A.A.W.S. YouTube account be brought back to the 2019 Conference Committee on Public Information.

#### Committee Considerations

- The committee reviewed and accepted the 2018 Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan and noted the importance of the trustees’ continued exploration of social media and social network platforms to carry the A.A. message to the public.

#### Report and Charter

It was recommended that:

##### A. **The A.A. Service Manual, 2018-2020 Edition:**

1. Considered adding “Panel” definition to the *Glossary of General Service Terms*. **PASSED**

2. Consider adding graphics on page S75, above the section *A.A. World Services, Inc.*, that visually display the positions on each of the three corporate boards. **PASSED**

3. Text to be added reflecting AAWS copyright statement on “The Blue People” graphic. **PASSED**

4. Any Committee Considerations be published in their entirety in both the printed Conference report and the anonymity-protected version. **PASSED**

5. Considered the plan for a revised editorial review process. **PASSED**

Additional Committee Considerations:

Considered removing the following statement: ... “Any group or district of the Fellowship is free to use the symbol of a circle and triangle on newsletters, meeting schedules or other A.A. material.” **Took No Action**

**Treatment and Accessibilities:**

- A. Title of pamphlet Accessibility for all Alcoholics be changed to “Access to AA: Members Share on Overcoming Barriers”—approved with additional revisions. **PASSED**
- B. Scope of Committee expanded to include remote communities. **PASSED**

Very Large Emphasis on Military!

**Trustees:**

Committee Considerations

The committee thoughtfully reviewed a proposal to censure the General Service Board and after seeking extensive additional input from the general manager of G.S.O., the chair of the General Service Board, and additional General Service Board trustees, agreed to take no action. The committee recognized that the litigation regarding the Printer’s Copy Manuscript of Alcoholics Anonymous has caused many in the Fellowship to have strong feelings on all sides of this issue. The committee believes that the unity of Alcoholics Anonymous is the most important treasure we have as a Fellowship. The committee also recognizes that the General Service Board and the Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. Board have many legal responsibilities and must sometimes make use of the right of decision, but in the spirit of A.A. unity, the committee asks the General Service Board, A.A. World Services, Inc. and AA Grapevine, Inc. that:

- All major decisions made by A.A. World Services, Inc., AA Grapevine, Inc., the General Service Office or AA Grapevine management be promptly and fully reported to the General Service Board, as appropriate.
- If the General Service Board, the A.A. World Services or AA Grapevine boards need to initiate a legal proceeding as a plaintiff, that whenever possible, they will consult the members of the General Service Conference before starting such a proceeding, being ever mindful of A.A. unity and A.A.’s financial prudence. However, the committee understands that sometimes this might not be possible.
- The committee reviewed a proposal to reorganize the A.A.W.S. and General Service Boards and took no action. The committee noted that although a reorganization was not considered necessary at this time, the committee requested that the trustees’ Committee on Nominating develop procedures for a partial or complete reorganization of the General Service Board, the A.A.W.S. or AA Grapevine boards and that a report be brought back to the 2019 Conference



Committee on Trustees, including all possible options.

### **Archives**

It was recommended that:

A. The proposed new publication, *Our Great Responsibility: A Selection of Bill W.'s General Service Conference Talks, 1951 – 1970* be approved with minor editorial changes.  
*This should be available in about a year – contains 18 talks!*

### **International Conventions/Regional Forums**

20. The following two cities, expressed here in alphabetical order, be considered as possible sites for the International Convention in 2030: Indianapolis, Indiana; St. Louis, Missouri.

21. Up to 21 non-A.A. speakers be invited to attend the 2020 International Convention at A.A.'s expense.

### **Committee Considerations**

The committee requested that the trustees' Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums review the Guidelines for Site Selection for the 2035 A.A. International Convention and explore expanding the window of dates in which the 2035 International Convention could be held. *(100-year anniversary)*

### **Floor Actions:**

There were 8 proposed Floor Actions. #1, #3, #5, #7 the Conference declined to hear. #8 was withdrawn.

1. Area Service Highlights be published in their entirety in both the printed Conference *Final Report* and the anonymity-protected digital version
2. Page 18 of the pamphlet "Members of the Clergy Ask About A.A." now reads: "Please check your local telephone directory or newspaper for the number of Alcoholics Anonymous." Be revised to read: Alcoholics Anonymous can be found on the Internet at aa.org and in most telephone directories by looking for "Alcoholics Anonymous." Additionally, online meetings are available, which members of the military and others often use when they are in places where there is no meeting nearby.

I will never forget the 68<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference; it is forever stamped into my heart and soul. I especially wish to thank all of you, A.A., and my higher power for this opportunity to serve Area 16, a pocket of enthusiasm that continues to "Carry the A.A. Message".

### **Recognition of past Area 16 State Officers**

David M., past delegate, past treasurer; Tom H., past delegate, past secretary; Diane M., past treasurer; Gene T., past treasurer; Glenda M., past secretary, past office manager

### **January 2018 GSSA Business Meeting Minutes approved by show of hands**

### **65<sup>th</sup> Prepaid Convention (Athens) Report—Jim T., Convention Chair**

**Dates:** Friday, Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, Oct. 28, 2018

**Venue:** The Classic Center, 300 N. Thomas Street, Athens, GA 30601

- State of the art facility, newly renovated, seating for 1600 (Grand Hall 1-7) On-site Hospitality Suite.

**Host Hotels:**

- Hilton Garden Inn: directly across from Classic Center; \$139/night; 140 Rooms reserved
- Holiday Inn: 0.3 mile away, \$109/night; 125 rooms reserved
- Holiday Inn Express: 0.5 mile away, \$99/night; 100 Rooms reserved
- Cutoff date for Reservations is October 5, 2018

**Speakers:**

- Tammy Z., Humble, TX—Friday evening
- Lori G. (AFG), Oklahoma City, OK—Saturday morning
- Korbyn B., Springfield, MO—Saturday afternoon
- Clif G., Oklahoma City, OK—Saturday evening
- Kristina W., San Anselmo, CA—Sunday morning

**Planned Activities:**

Golf Tournament (Jennings Mill CC), Motorcycle Poker Run, Fun Run/Walk (Sandy Creek Park), Yoga, Georgia-Florida Game Viewing and Meal. AA and Al-Anon Workshops, Open Meetings. Halloween Dance on Saturday Night (DJ). Double A Café (Open Mic).

**New Activities:** State Botanical Tour (\$5), Georgia Museum of Art Tour (Free), GAH Sanford Stadium Tour (Free).

**\*Current Number of Registrations:** 408 A.A., 29 Al-anon for a total of 437.

**\*Please register online at [aaqgeorgia.org](http://aaqgeorgia.org) or at our Registration Table!**

**Office Manager Chair—Rebecca T.**

No report

**Alternate Delegate Report—Debi K.**

All **Cluster Forums** for 2018 have been scheduled:

- Albany Cluster Forum -92 AA members attended
- Next Cluster Forum- West Central June 9<sup>th</sup> Fayetteville First Methodist Church-  
Flyer Submitted and published in Georgia AA Message-working on Agenda
- Northeast Cluster Forum- Hull, GA at Jackson EMC Community Room, Aug 4,  
2018 -Working on Flyer
- Metro Cluster Forum- Atlanta, GA in November at the Tucker First United  
Methodist Church on LaVista Road- Working on Flyer

**Pre-Paid Conventions**

- Athens- Very well prepared, working to stay within budget  
Committee Meeting May 6 -404 members registered
- Savannah- Ernie attends these meetings  
All speakers identified  
Completed Draft of Flyer  
Draft Schedule Completed
- Callaway 2020- District 10 prepared to share info at Business Meeting and  
receive conformation

**Additional State Sponsored Events thru September 2018** (for full list of events go to [aageorgia.org](http://aageorgia.org))

- Corrections Certification Training, Macon/GSSA, May 26/8am-12pm
- PI/CPC Hotline Workshop, Macon, June 16 (flyer available)
- 2018 Annual Area 16 Treatment Workshop, St Simons Island, June 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Georgia State Service Assembly, Macon Marriott, September 14-16

If you have questions or comments you can contact me at [alt\\_delegate@aageorgia.org](mailto:alt_delegate@aageorgia.org)

**Secretary Report—Joan M.**

Attendance Report

DCMs	43
Alternate DCMs	22
District Secretary/Treasurers	8
GSRs	239
Alternate GSRs	57
Group Secretary/Treasurers	20
Grapevine Reps	11
Treatment/Accessibilities Reps	8

Corrections Reps	11
Communications	6
PI/CPC Reps	12
Archives Reps	8
Members-at-Large	<u>42</u>
Total	487

Group information can be updated online by using one of the following forms: New Group Registration Form, Existing Group Meeting Change Form, or the Existing Group Trusted Servants Update Form. You can find these online at [aageorgia.org](http://aageorgia.org), on the homepage under the “Find a Meeting” tab.

Please send your District/Zone Minutes to [districtminutes@aageorgia.org](mailto:districtminutes@aageorgia.org). On our website, click on the “Service” tab, Area 16 Office Committee, then Secretary. The link will be on the left- hand side.

DCMs: GSSA’s preferred form of communication with you is via email. Each of you have a district email box accessible at [district @aageorgia.org](mailto:district @aageorgia.org). Please check regularly as information is sent to you which we then ask you to pass on to your district.

You can reach me at [secretary@aageorgia.org](mailto:secretary@aageorgia.org) with questions or comments. Thank you for your participation.

**Treasurer Report—Rusty L.**

This slide presentation, full financial reports and group contribution reports are available online. The information presented here is thru 4/30/2018.



## INCOME

	<b>2018 Budget</b>	<b>2018 Actual</b>	<b>2018 Difference</b>
Ordinary Income	\$56,412.50	\$68,362.68	\$11,950.18
Literature Income and Interest	\$34,866.67	\$34,768.44	(\$98.23)
Total Income	\$91,279.17	\$103,131.12	\$11,851.95



## EXPENSES

	<b>2018 Budget</b>	<b>2018 Actual</b>	<b>2018 Difference</b>
COMMITTEES	\$11,968.88	\$7,902.23	(\$4,066.65)
ASSEMBLY	\$13,435.80	\$13,369.66	(\$66.14)
OPERATIONS	\$34,630.50	\$34,903.38	\$272.88
LITERATURE	\$31,095.83	\$31,229.11	\$133.28
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$91,131.01</b>	<b>\$87,404.38</b>	<b>(\$3,726.63)</b>



**EXPENSES  
 BY COMMITTEE**

	<b>2018 Budget</b>	<b>2018 Actual</b>	<b>2018 Difference</b>
OFFICE COMMITTEE	\$2,793.33	\$2,018.59	(\$774.74)
PI/CPC	\$596.67	\$181.80	(\$414.87)
COMMUNICATIONS	\$3,014.44	\$1,026.90	(\$1,987.54)
TREATMENT	\$680.00	\$352.50	(\$327.50)
CORRECTIONS	\$1,180.00	\$704.40	(\$475.60)
ARCHIVES	\$1,774.44	\$1,156.35	(\$618.09)
GRAPEVINE	\$563.33	\$307.98	(\$255.35)
MISCELLANEOUS	\$1,366.67	\$2,153.71	\$787.04



## TOTALS

	<b>2018 Budget</b>	<b>2018 Actual</b>	<b>2018 Difference</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	\$91,279.17	\$103,131.12	\$11,851.95
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	\$91,131.01	\$87,404.38	(\$3,726.63)
<b>DIFFERENCE</b>	\$148.16	\$15,726.74	\$15,578.58





## GSSA RESERVE FUND

<b>Current Reserve Fund Balance</b> (as of 04/30/2017)	<b>\$152,917.44</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b> (as of 12/31/2017)	<b>\$169,863.80</b>
<b>Months of Operating Expense</b>	<b>10.8</b>

[aageorgia.org](http://aageorgia.org) | [gssa@aageorgia.org](mailto:gssa@aageorgia.org) | P.O. Box 7325 Macon, GA 31209 | Phone: 478-745-2588 | [Gssa@2006](mailto:Gssa@2006)

An additional \$5000 contribution has recently been made to our reserve fund, increasing our current reserve fund balance to \$157,917,44. Compared to operating expenses from last year, we now have 11.2 months of operating expenses in our prudent reserve.



PREPAID CONVENTION

<b>2018 Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$13,282.82</b>
<b>Reserve Fund Balance</b> (as of 04/30/2018)	<b>\$121,499.62</b>
<b>Number of Conventions per Reserve Balance</b>	<b>3.26</b>
(based on a 3-year rolling average of \$37,239.33)	

The number of conventions per reserve balance may appear higher than we expect, however we have not paid for our Athens convention. When that happens, the number will go back down.

### **Southeast Regional Forum**

Originating in 1975, Regional Forums are “weekend sharing and informational sessions designed to help the General Service Board, A.A. World Services, Inc., the Grapevine Corporate Board, the Grapevine Staff, and the General Service Office Staff stay in touch with A.A. members, trusted servants and newcomers to service throughout the A.A. service structure.” This year the Southeast Regional Forum will be held November 16-18 in Sterling, Virginia, just outside of Washington, D.C. An information flyer as well as hotel information can be found online at [aa.org](http://aa.org), by clicking on the link at the top of the page. Online registration opens September 17, 2018.

There is no registration fee, however you must provide hotel and meals. We hope to see you there!

## **Guest Remarks—Sally C., Executive Director of Stepping Stones, Historic home of Bill and Lois Wilson**

Special thanks to Area 16 for including Stepping Stones and me this weekend. It has been a real thrill as a past DCM from the Area to be with you here. From my observations, service is strong here in Area 16 and you have a lot to be proud of. Thank you very much for what you do. I want to offer my thanks on behalf of the staff, volunteers, and trustees at the historic home of Bill and Lois Wilson. For those who do not know, we are an hour north of NYC. We offer tours which you can book by calling us or going to our website [steppingstones.org](http://steppingstones.org). The tour includes the place where the 12x12 was written, the desk Bill used to write some Big Book chapters, and the founding place of Al-anon. It would be my honor to hook you up with a tour and make sure you have a good time. We hope to hear from you.

Also, we have an archive that has a lot of early A.A. history in it. Some of it does not overlap with the archive at the GSO in NY. If there is something you are researching and you need help with, please contact us. We would love for you to put in an archive request. We have so much there: 150K items in the archive, 7500 photographs, manuscripts, drafts for the 12x12, and much more. I can share information with what you are interested in if you contact me. When Rick and Joan visited Stepping Stones after Conference, they stayed on and we went in Archives and tried to find out what was in the archives from Georgia. We didn't turn up much. We found a congratulatory letter from Bill W. to a group here that was putting on a prison meeting. I'm not sure if that meeting goes on today, but he was thanking them for their service and congratulating them on having a meeting going strong in a prison for many years. We also found correspondence between the Atlanta Roundup and Lois because she was invited to speak here.

After Bill died, Lois was often invited to speak, obviously about Al-anon, but also she was invited to speak and tell the history of A.A. throughout the world. In fact, I've heard of her even 12<sup>th</sup> stepping alcoholics. She was even invited in New Jersey to lead some A.A. meetings, which we obviously know that would be against traditions, but she did have those experiences. In our archive, there may be much more about Georgia.

We are going to be launching a project where we need to index the material in our archive so we know where to search it by geography, topic, date. Right now, it's kind of vague how you find information in there. So, we will maybe even be reaching out to members if they want to be a part of indexing our archive remotely by looking at materials online and helping us categorize them. If you want to learn more about projects like that, and what we have in our archives, please do check out our website, join or mailing lists, and it would be great to keep you informed.

We are totally separate from A.A. and Al-anon—Lois set it up that way. We knew that money, property and prestige could divert us from our primary purpose. The 8 acres, the 6 buildings, all the documents, and 15K objects, could not be left to any fellowship because that would be against the Traditions. In 1979, Lois figured out a way to start a foundation to keep the place

open for visitors. We would love to have you come. That was key for her, and we carry on that mission today.

It was a pleasure this weekend to spend time with the Archives Committee. I think they are doing an awesome job. All the Archives Reps, and Mike and Fred are moving things in a great direction. This Area has so much to be proud of in its Archive. You have so many interesting things and you are light years ahead of other area archives. Congratulations on that. They are doing a methodical job. They have projects on the horizon they need help with, so hopefully some of you will be inspired to jump in. The most exciting thing I saw over there was the big banner for the 2015 International for all the volunteers. That was so awesome. And all of you did a great job putting on that International.

It has been an honor and a joy to be with you. Many thanks for your sobriety, for your service, and for this opportunity to share. Thank you.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Approval of Callaway Gardens bid for the 2020 Pre-Paid Convention**

Presented by Gary H., DCM 10D

Date: October 16-18, 2020

#### Accommodations:

- Mountain Creek Inn—\$124+tax/room/night; renovated in 2013
- Southern Pine Cottages—\$329+tax/night for a 2-bedroom unit; \$164+tax/night for a 1-bedroom unit
- Mountain Creek Villas and Vacation Homes—start at \$179+tax/night; 1,2,3,4 bedroom units available
- Lodge and Spa—\$189+tax/night/room
- Camping at nearby FDR Park

Free parking for anyone staying at onsite hotels

#### Recreation:

Tree Top Adventure zip lining, golf, tennis, fishing, nature trails, Birds of Prey, Robin Lake beach, the Butterfly Center

Dining: prices from \$12.95 and up

- The Gardens Restaurant
- The Country Kitchen
- The Piedmont Dining Room
- The Discovery Café
- Champions Grille

Lower cost choices in nearby Pine Mountain

#### Meeting space:

- Complimentary with 80% room blocks filled
- 7000 square foot meeting space
- 1200-person capacity ballroom with overflow area

Show of hands in favor of bid  
**All in favor**

### **Review of Assembly Procedures**

Motion requiring manual change to be voted on:

**Motion:** I move that we take a roll call of eligible voters at the beginning of every business meeting

No discussion on motion

Vote: 129 Yes, 105 No; 2/3 majority needed to pass

Motion did **NOT** pass

No minority opinion

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Nominations for Secretary and Treasurer**

Qualifications for positions read from the Georgia State Manual by Secretary

#### **Secretary Nominations**

Norman S., Dist 7A, GSR Primary Purpose nominates Tracy M.

Fran L., Dist 7A, GSR Surrender, 2nds nomination

Tracy M.—Accepts nomination

Steve K., Dist 8, GSR Baldwin County nominates Amy B.

Richard R., Dist 8, GSR 24 Hour, 2nds nomination

Amy B.—Accepts nomination

Glen S., Dist 16E, GSR Lakeland Group nominates Janie C.

Jennifer J., Dist 16E, Alt GSR Morning Miracles, 2nds nomination

Janie C.—Accepts nomination

Jack Y., Dist 11C, GSR Henry County nominates Mark G.

Don S., Dist 11c, GSR Hampton Group, 2nds nomination

Mark G.—Accepts nomination

James, Dist 13H, GSR East Atlanta nominates Pat B.

Alexis, Dist 13H, GSR No Expectations, 2nds nomination

Pat B.—Accepts nomination

#### **Treasurer Nominations**

Wanda G., Dist 2A, Alt GSR Hahira Group nominates Christy G.

Grace F., Dist 5B, GSR Had Enuff Group, 2nds nomination

Christy G.—Accepts nomination

**Assembly Chair** makes amends to Assembly members for remarks made at January Assembly concerning DCMs responsibilities

## **GENERAL SHARING**

Dennis T., 13G, GSR How it Works

**Motion:** Have GSSA investigate increasing the availability of electronic means of making contributions at all area events

Larry W., 3A, GSR Golden Isles Group, 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion

### Discussion

Diane M., Communications Chair, past State Treasurer—Is the intent to provide a computer system so people could log in and make contributions, or is the request to have different state functions accessible online for members to contribute to those functions?

Dennis—Motion as presented is an investigatory measure, more as looking at options whether it's thru already established services like PayPal, Square, or even just simply having laptops here at the assemblies or Prepaid to contribute to instead of baskets and money. The point is, many of us do not carry cash. Donations would increase if I could swipe a card.

Rusty L., Area Treasurer—Younger and younger people use smart phones, don't carry cash, want to donate, but do not want to use an ATM machine. They want an APP such as Venmo. The motion is a request for us to see if something like this is feasible. We would not stop passing the basket, but when pass the basket, people could be using an APP to be making their donation. This would be strictly for GSSA.

Diane—We currently have online contribution functionality. By logging in to [aageorgia.org](http://aageorgia.org), you can make contributions online.

Chris, 16B, GSR Sunrise Group—As a small business owner I accept credit cards and pay a high percentage rate for every transaction. Larger business pay a low credit card multiplier vs. smaller businesses. My concern is when swiping credit cards, we will lose a portion of the donation to a 3<sup>rd</sup> party processor.

Patrick, 13A, GSR Chapter 3 Group—This motion is to investigate things such as mentioned previously and bring back information. The point in using an app such as Venmo vs. going online is to make it easy, to increase willingness to donate. All of us can relate to opening your wallet at a meeting, seeing nothing in it, just so you can seem like you intend to donate. You can't do that with a phone.

Ryan M., 5A, GSR Primary Purpose—Venmo is 100% free for debit transfers (up to \$3K for free)

Tom R., 16B, DCM—To clarify, are we talking only about this assembly, or at any state event?

Ernie M., Assembly Chair—Motion reads, “at all area events”

End of discussion

Delegate is to appoint and ad-hoc committee to consider motion

Jack Y., 11C, GSR Henry County Group

**Motion:** State Chair become an elected two-year position with the same qualifications as Delegate

Don S., 11C, GSR Hampton Group, 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion

### Discussion

Aaron W., 13J, DCM—Is this for state Committee Chairs or State Chair?

Ernie—This is for State Assembly Chair

Jim B., 1B, DCM—Seems that the state Assembly Chair already has the same qualifications since it is the past Delegate which serves that position. What is the change?

Mark G., Henry County Group—Currently the State Chair is filled by a rotation of the past delegate, so there is no vote involved for it. Every other state position is voted for. In discussions with past DCMs, the main reason they do not stand for delegate is that it is an eight-year commitment: alt-delegate, delegate, assembly chair, office committee chair. We thought it was a shame qualified people with a passion to serve don't step up because of the eight years. Our investigation showed in most other Areas, State Chair is an elected position. Secondly, is the question about whether our current rotation is a true representation of the Second Tradition, which is the spirit of rotation. As we understand that, it says you will step aside so someone new can have a chance to serve. All we do now is rotate someone who is currently in service to have another service position. We want to be more in line with the Second Tradition.

Frank S., GSR White Bluff Group, Savannah—What about the Office Committee Chair position?

Ernie—Stay tuned

Ashley M., 16E, Alt DCM—As a GSR my job is to provide my group with the best information within the Traditions or literature so we can be as informed as possible. Personally, when I take a service position, I know the length of time the position is for and that I am committed to that. What an honor to my sobriety that I can be accountable for whatever length of time that is. It seems to me that as a person progresses in these service positions, their experience at assembly keeps them informed at the state level, to be able to direct and lead this body. Chairing a large group of Alcoholics is not an easy thing. If it is not broken don't fix it.

Tom H., past delegate, past secretary—I've done that eight-year rotation and I've heard many delegates in their past reports say "I wish you all could go to Conference". I might as well say, "I wish you all could be Area Chair", or "I wish you all could be Office Committee Chair". Not having heard an ad-hoc report today, if I had a vote, it would be in favor of this motion. At Conference, I once heard "You are better off to be Chair before you are Delegate at Conference." We don't have that experience in this Area. I would say, 6 of 1, half dozen of another. Being Delegate made me a better Area Chair. I think if I had the opportunity to be Area Chair first, then Delegate, perhaps it would have made me a better Alternate Delegate. My thing is more along the spirit of rotation. Nobody else gets a chance to do it. I think there are plenty of people that would take a shorter term, and might be more interested in Area Chair than Delegate. I enjoyed Area Chair every bit as much as Delegate. I know a lot of people that would have been good Area Chairs but never had the chance because they never got into that rotation. The way we do it limits the number of people and there is such talent in this Area, I would love to see that change.

Elaine—Ten to fifteen years ago we had an Area inventory. Out of that came the need for a Parliamentarian. The purpose was to help the Delegate or whoever was at the mic with procedure. If we have a vote for a State Chair they could have the assistance of a Parliamentarian.

End of discussion

Delegate is to appoint and ad-hoc committee to consider motion

Jack Y., 11C, GSR Henry County Group

**Motion:** Office Chair become a two-year elected position with the same qualifications as Delegate

Don S., 11C, GSR Hampton Group, 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion

### Discussion

Terry P., 5A, DCM—For the Office Chair, if the qualifications still stand, doesn't that mean they need to be a Delegate to qualify for Area Chair?

Ernie—No. The motion reads: "...with the same qualifications as Delegate"

Kathy B., Area Corrections Chair—I have been coming to Assembly for quite a few years and I remember how many times something has come up during the business meeting, and there are conferences going on between the Delegate, Office Chair, and Office Manager concerning the correct way to proceed. If we have all these elected positions, the experience and history about everything becomes discontinuous.



Mark G.—With qualifications for being Delegate, you have already been a DCM, usually a GSR, and probably coming to Assembly for close to a decade. You would have a lot of experience in how this operates. One of the reasons we came up with this is to give more people an opportunity to serve at the state level. Many are willing to serve, with a limited amount of positions available. Many are well qualified to be Office Chair or Office Manager with no interest in being Delegate.

End of discussion

Delegate is to appoint and ad-hoc committee to consider motion

Connie W., 7B, Alt GSR

Motion to close

Chris N., Sunrise Group, 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion

Meeting closed with Lord's Prayer in Spanish and English