

## DELEGATE / [delegate@aageorgia.org](mailto:delegate@aageorgia.org)

### 69<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference (GSC) – Preparations Underway By Rick M. Area 16 Delegate

The General Service Conference (GSC) is the forum at which the collective conscience of Alcoholics Anonymous in the United States and Canada is heard regarding the direction of our World Services. At the GSC, policy matters of importance to the Fellowship as a whole are considered and discussed. Even though the GSC is held during just one week in New York, the work of the Conference is a year-long process, and every member of AA is entitled to participate.

The final Conference agenda is set at the January meeting of the General Service Board (GSB) and is published as soon as possible thereafter. Once the agenda is published, discussions on the agenda items

may begin throughout the Area, even though background material may not yet be available. When the Delegate receives the background material, a decision is made by the Delegate as to how the material should be distributed (some of the material may be confidential).

AA members participate in the Conference process by discussing items on the Conference agenda, along with any available background material, and then passing the results of their discussions on to the Delegate. These discussions are held at the Group, District and Assembly levels. Our Area 16 Pre-Conference Meeting will be held on April 6<sup>th</sup> in Macon. With your group's input, this will be a very productive meeting.

This past January I attended the General Service Board meet-

ing in New York. As Delegate Conference Committee Chair for International Conventions/Regional Forums (and Alternate Chair for Literature Committee), it was a real honor to be asked to attend this important Board meeting. During this weekend, all the Trustee committees met to discuss and finalize their conference agenda items and then forward them on to the Conference and the appropriate Conference Committee. Over the weekend, I not only attended my Conference

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## ALTERNATE DELEGATE / [alt\\_delegate@aageorgia.org](mailto:alt_delegate@aageorgia.org)

### Our Big Book 80 Years, 71 Languages By Debi K. Area 16 Alternate Delegate

The Theme of the 2019 General Service Conference recognizes the book Alcoholics Anonymous. Although the book has never been on the New York Times Best Seller list, it has been designated one of the 88 "Books that Shaped America" by the Library of Congress. I had the opportunity to visit the Library of Congress in 2014 to view our book on display with tears in my eyes and a heart full of gratitude.

It is difficult to determine the impact of AA's basic textbook in shaping America, but we do know that our book has helped millions of men and women throughout the world, from all walks of life, find a spiritual and satisfying way of life without alcohol.

The Big Book describes the AA pro-

gram of action for recovery from alcoholism, but it is not only for active and recovering alcoholics. Our book has also offered convincing evidence to relatives and friends that alcoholics can recover; and has furnished revealing insights to physicians, psychologists, members of the clergy and other professionals who work with alcoholics.

It is common knowledge that the initial draft of the Big Book was written by AA co-founder Bill Wilson when he was not quite four years sober. Can you imagine? I am always humbled by the thought and the recollection of my progress at four years sober. However, Bill did not complete our book by himself. Alcoholics Anonymous can be considered a collective creation, like our program of recovery. Each chapter was "edited" by A.A. members in Akron, Ohio, and New York

City — all of them sober less time than Bill. This cooperative effort, reflecting the shared experience and consensus of the small Fellowship as a whole, set in motion the democratic process of decision-making that characterizes AA today.

At the time it was initially published, the book provided the name for a small movement with nearly 100 members, which has grown to over 2 million members today. It took 36 years to sell the first million copies. Yet today, every year approximately one million copies of the Big Book are distributed in the English language alone (it is translated into 71 languages). In 2010, the thirty-millionth copy was presented to the American Medical Association, which declared alcoholism an illness in 1956.

My Big Book continues to be a vital tool to my own recovery. It is amazing how, every time I pick it up and read it, I discover something new!

## TREASURER / [treasurer@aageorgia.org](mailto:treasurer@aageorgia.org)

### What is the Prudent Reserve?

**By Christy G.  
Area 16 Treasurer**

We made it through another Assembly together. It was my first since filling the role of Treasurer. I enjoyed having the opportunity to visit and speak with everyone in Area 16. The most frequently asked question I received was: "What is the prudent reserve?"

According to the AA Guidelines on Finance, MG-15, the prudent reserve is "to provide the financial resources to continue the essential services of "GSSA" for up to a year in the event of an unexpected and substantial reduction in the normal revenues of the organization." It is suggested that groups have at least a three-month prudent reserve for the same reasons as GSSA and GSO have one. We currently have a prudent reserve of

11.04 months available. GSSA's goal is one year.

If you were not able to attend the Assembly, I had the pleasure of reporting we had a total income of \$285,591.85 and total expenses of \$275,389.41. That comes out to a net income of \$10,202.44. If we keep this up, we might be able to increase our number of cluster forums. This would mean we would be able to have eight a year versus four a year. To make this a reality again it will take all our efforts and support to GSSA, so keep up the great job.

Also, at the Assembly, I was able to report that Athens came in under budget for the 2018 Pre-Paid Convention. Remember this year's convention is scheduled to be held in Savannah October 17-20 and next year's will be in Callaway Gardens. Keep up the support for your Georgia Convention so we can keep it available for ALL who want to attend.

## SECRETARY / [secretary@aageorgia.org](mailto:secretary@aageorgia.org)

### Our Message of Depth and Weight

**By Tracy M.  
Area 16 Secretary**

My first Assembly as your Area Secretary was amazing! There were 500 people in attendance. When I think about what that means for our Fellowship, I believe we are incredibly blessed. My Sponsor talks a lot about participating in our own recovery. Being a part of AA in service has so much to do with suiting up and showing up. We are not a glum lot. Our goal to be of maximum service is often also met with wonderful new friends that share the passion to help the next suffering alcoholic.

I remember my very first Assembly. I came in alone and was terrified in the crowd of people. It was the Saturday night speaker meeting and Charlie Y. from Savannah was telling his story. I have never forgot-

ten the laughter and tears in the message he carried. It was a message of depth and weight!

Our Theme voted by the General Service Conference in April 2018 and approved at GSSA in September 2018 is: Our Big Book — 80 years, 71 Languages. Our Big Book is where our message of depth and weight comes from. The program of action contained in our book is available all over the world today. Our future depends on each member participating in their recovery, protecting the message.

At our Service Assembly we have an opportunity and a responsibility to learn and bring information back to our Districts and home groups. Staying connected through your District e-mail is one way to ensure you have the information you need to best serve your District.

Please submit your District/Zone business meeting minutes to [district-minutes@aageorgia.org](mailto:district-minutes@aageorgia.org). You can also contact me with questions at [secretary@aageorgia.org](mailto:secretary@aageorgia.org).

## SELF-SUPPORT GROUP CONTRIBUTION PLANS TO AA SERVICE ENTITIES

"To help support AA's essential services, the General Service Conference suggests that individual groups, *through an informed group conscience*, adopt a specific contribution plan tailored to meet the group's financial situation." - *Self-Support: Where Money & Spirituality Mix*

Self-support begins with each of us as part of a group. After group expenses are paid, remaining contributions should be disbursed to cover the expenses of our service entities so others can discover the miracles of AA.

Below are sample distribution plans. The group conscience should be informed on the financial needs of each of the service entities when making their distribution decisions as those needs change over time.

### Group Conscience Decision

State Office, Macon:	___%
District/Zone:	___%
Central Office:	___%
Pre-Paid Convention:	___%
GSO:	___%
Total:	<u>100%</u>

### Sample Distribution

	A	B
State Office, Macon:	50%	30%
Central Office:	-	35%
District/Zone:	10%	5%
Pre-Paid Convention:	10%	10%
GSO:	30%	20%

### Mailing Addresses:

#### GSSA (State Office) & Prepaid Convention

P.O. Box 7325  
Macon, GA 31209

#### GSO (General Service Office)

P.O. Box 459  
Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10163

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

## GRAPEVINE / [grapevine@aageorgia.org](mailto:grapevine@aageorgia.org)

### What's New?

By Robert M., Chair  
Whitney S., Co-Chair  
Area 16 Grapevine Committee

You may be asking yourself, what's new with Grapevine? Well, we are excited to announce that Grapevine is celebrating its 75th anniversary! Grapevine is currently offering a comprehensive package of recovery tools to connect groups. It is available now by going to [aageorgia.org/grapevine.org/75thanniversary](http://aageorgia.org/grapevine.org/75thanniversary). Get yours today!

Grapevine is always on the lookout for photographs, stories and illustrations. If you would like to submit any of these please visit the Grapevine website. There you can also find guidelines on submitting. We have a new book out, One Big Tent. It is a collection of stories from atheist and agnostic AA members who

have struggled with alcoholism and found their common solution in AA. It is available now.

Let's not forget the Carry the Message Project. It focuses on getting La Vina and Grapevine subscriptions for those in need. This helps get those in treatment facilities and those behind bars, and it even helps members who are homebound. It is a great way to give back and to help those in need.

If you are interested in becoming a Grapevine rep, that is great! Just let your home group know you are available and willing to serve. You may register online at [www.grapevine.org](http://www.grapevine.org). The Grapevine office will send you your free information kit. If your group or District is planning any Grape-A-Thons this year, please let us know. We would love to be there!

Thank you for allowing us to serve.

## Treatment / Accessibilities [treatment@aageorgia.org](mailto:treatment@aageorgia.org)

### New Year, New Faces

By Richard R., Chair  
Karen S., Co-Chair

#### Area 16 Treatment / Accessibilities Committee

I would like to say thank you to Kerri J. for her presentation on working with a deaf member of AA. Kerri gave us some much-needed information and even helped us with some sign language. Again, thank you Kerri for making our first workshop a success.

A new year brings new faces to our workshops. I am looking forward to working with the new treatment reps, as well as the ones that have been here a while. New reps and a new year give us the opportunity to get back to the basics of taking a meeting into a treatment facility. This will be one area we will be focusing on during the year.

Bridging the Gap is an area we

need to concentrate on to have a faster turnaround time. BTG is a very important key to recovery. Working together we can make Bridging the Gap a real success in Area 16.

Accessibility is an area that deals with making AA meetings available to anyone wishing to attend one. This can include providing transportation or child care, taking a meeting to someone who is homebound or deaf, etc. Making AA accessible is an exciting challenge and an extremely rewarding experience.

Remember there are several helpful guidelines:

- *Sharing the AA message with the alcoholics who are deaf.*
- *Treatment committee guide lines.*
- *Accessibilities checklist.*

One quick reminder: Our 2019 Area Treatment and Accessibilities workshop will be hosted by District 8 on June 22 in Dublin.

## PI/CPC / [picpc@aageorgia.org](mailto:picpc@aageorgia.org)

### Area 16 and the Service Structure

By Max S., Chair  
Micah G., Co-Chair  
Area 16 Public Information/  
Cooperation With the Professional  
Community Committee

Asking for help is an important part of our recovery. It is also an important part of communication within our service structure.

Where do I as an AA member fit into that structure? How can my actions make a difference? Participation at a group level is a key place to start. By participating in a home group, I am creating a safe place to voice my concerns and suggestions. Business meetings allow a reciprocal relationship for me to cooperate, inspire, clarify and ask questions. It is also an opportunity to receive information from the membership as a whole and discover new happenings and experiences within the Fellowship.

As an individual member, your first line of communication can be your General Service Representative or a group committee member (Treatment, PI/CPC, etc.). That representative can then take any items to your District meeting. Your District Committee Member (DCM) should be the next line of contact. Items at the District level are then taken to Area 16, which happens to encompass the State of Georgia. We have a Delegate as well as an Office Committee to serve our GSSA (Georgia State Service Assembly) office. There are also Area 16 Committee chairs and co-chairs. Items then move on to the General Service Office (GSO) Conference.

Please feel comfortable reaching out to us at any time for questions. We are happy to help guide you through the process.

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

### What is Communication?

By Diane M., Chair  
Chuck H., Co-Chair

#### Area 16 Communications Committee

Communication has been critical to "carrying the message" since the founding of AA. "We were sure that unless our recovery experiences were put on paper, our principles and practices would soon be distorted," Bill W. wrote about the origins of the Big Book in a June 1947 Grapevine article reprinted in "The Language of the Heart." (page 58.)

Bill W., writing in July 1960 on the growth of AA, said that "it occurs to me that every aspect of this global unfoldment can be related to a single crucial word. The word is communication." (page 243, Language of the Heart).

*Communication, as defined in the Merriam-Webster dictionary, is a process by which information is exchanged between individuals through a common system of*

*symbols, signs, or behavior.*

The Area 16 Communication Committee uses several methods to exchange information: the Georgia Message, [aageorgia.org](http://aageorgia.org) website, and Spanish translators, and audio-visual equipment. AA Groups use literature displays to provide pamphlets and books, signage to show where meetings are located, and, of course, the spoken word during the meeting.

What about the AA member? How do we use Communication to carry the message? Many of us think of communication as the spoken language, which is a part of our communication method, but our actions speak louder than our words. The definition above ended with "behavior" as a means of exchanging information. Since the AA is program of attraction, not promotion, our behavior outside the rooms is how we carry the message.

We are always communicating, and I have choice about what message my words and actions will communicate each day.

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

### A New Year!

By Ken P., Chair  
David J., Co-Chair

#### Area 16 Corrections Committee

We have just completed a wonderful Corrections Training session at our State Office! There were 14 recovered alcoholics who are beginning the journey to take AA meetings into state prisons. Thank you all! Also, please mark your calendars for May 25 and September 28. These are the next two training sessions. You don't have to register, but if you let the GSSA office know you are coming, we can contact you in case there is a cancellation.

Please consider participating in the Corrections Bridge the Gap program. With your help, someone just coming home from prison can make plans to attend an AA meeting on their first day home.

We know that getting to a meeting before temptations arrive can make all the difference in the world.

When you put your pocket change into one of the Pink Cans, it becomes possible for AA literature to be sent to inmates across Georgia. Your change allows AA materials to be sent where we do not yet have volunteers.

Districts are considering bringing the 2021 AA National Corrections Conference to Georgia. Our Chair will be attending the 2019 National Corrections Conference to present a Georgia Bid. If your District might want to host this national conference, please let us know.

If you bring your old Grapevines to the next GSSA meeting, we will make certain they get into Georgia prisons and jails.

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

### A Mirror of the Fellowship

By Fred I., Chair  
Mike S., Co-Chair

#### Area 16 Archives Committee

The A.A Grapevine is A.A.'s "meeting in print," a monthly collection of articles written by A.A. members from around the world. As an integral part of Alcoholics Anonymous for over 50 years, the Grapevine publishes articles that reflect the full diversity of experience and thought found within the A.A. Fellowship. No one viewpoint or philosophy dominates its pages, and in determining content, the editorial staff relies on the principles of the Twelve Traditions. Each issue carries a statement of purpose, which states a fundamental truth about the Grapevine, that it is "a lifeline linking one suffering alcoholic to another."

A Mirror of the Fellowship from its beginning in June of 1944, the Grapevine's history has run parallel to that of AA as a whole, and many of the critical events in the evolution of the Fellowship have been chronicled in the pages of the Grapevine. The Twelve Traditions were first presented to the Fellowship by Bill W. in an April 1946 article entitled "Twelve Suggested Points for AA Tradition." The Preamble was written by one of the Grapevine's first editors, based on the Foreword to the book Alcoholics Anonymous, and was published in the June 1947 Grapevine.

Throughout the years many nonalcoholic friends of AA have shared their experience and insight with the Fellowship through the Grapevine - such friends as Sister Ignatia, Rev. Sam Shoemaker, Dr. William Silkworth, and others.

Today, the Grapevine reaches an AA population that's dramatically different from the population of the early 1940's.

## Birthday Contributions

### District 7, Zone A

New Beginnings Group  
Gladys H – December 24, 1990

### District 8

I Am Responsible Group  
Tommy M – December 7, 2010  
Shannon M – January 25, 2011  
Claire P – August 16, 2017

### District 10, Zone A

Miracles Happen Group  
Kathy C – January 12, 2017

### District 10, Zone B

Fresh Start Group  
Diane R – November 8, 2017  
Joe P – November 8, 2017

### District 10, Zone D

Madras Group  
David J – November 19, 2000

### District 11, Zone A

Walton County Group  
Jocelyn B – January 1, 2010

### District 11, Zone B

No Name Nooners Group  
Kathie M – October 22, 1983

### District 13, Zone A

Clean Air Group  
Bill M – December 15, 1993

### District 13, Zone J

Sunset Group  
Veronica T – August 19, 2014

### District 16, Zone E

Lakeland Group  
Janie C – December 28, 2002

## New Groups

### District 11 Zone C

My Chance To Live Group  
A Recovery Place  
162 Keys Ferry St  
McDonough, GA 30253  
Sunday at 9:30 a.m. women

### District 13 Zone A

The Big Book Comes Alive Group  
North Springs United Methodist Church  
7770 Roswell Rd  
Sandy Springs, GA 30350  
Wednesday 8:00 p.m. Big Book

### District 13 Zone B

The Common Solution Group  
Trinity Anglican Mission Church  
2270 Defoor Hills Rd NW  
Atlanta, GA 30318  
Saturday 10:00 a.m. open

### District 14 Zone D

Westridge Group  
Westridge Church  
Modular 303  
3522 Hiram Acworth Hwy  
Dallas, GA 30157  
Sunday 7:30 p.m.

### District 16 Zone A

12 and 12 in the Valley Group  
The Episcopal Church of the Resurrection  
1755 Duncan Bridge Rd  
Santee-Nacoochee, GA 30571  
Monday 2:30 p.m. closed

Joyful Women Group  
First United Methodist Church  
395 West Crogen St  
Lawrenceville, GA 30046  
Saturday 10:00 a.m. Women step study

### District 16 Zone B

Bush League Group  
Hope Springs Christian  
1025 Baxter St  
Athens, GA 30603  
Monday 8:00 p.m. Closed

### District 16 Zone B

Sunset Group  
First Christian Church  
268 West Dougherty St  
Athens, GA 30601  
Monday – Friday 5:30 p.m.  
open discussion

Committee's meeting, I also attended several others including my primary committee, Literature.

I witnessed the tireless work performed by all the AA Trustees (Alcoholic Class B and Non-Alcoholic Class A), Staff, and Special workers. It was an "eye-opener" for me. I gained a real appreciation and understanding of the "spirit" of decisions made by the members of the Trustees' committees as they discussed each committees' agenda items.

I will always treasure the memories of this weekend and am so grateful for the experience. During the meetings I was welcomed, and encouraged to be an active participant in committee discussions and provide valued input into agenda item discussions.

This experience better prepared me for the upcoming 69<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference in May. I feel at this year's conference, I am better prepared to bring an "informed" understanding and participation into Committee and Conference floor discussions on agenda items.

I hope you have had time to read and discuss the agenda items and background material with your group and District/Zone. I look forward to your participation at the Pre-Conference Meeting in April and throughout 2019!

## THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA IS PUBLISHED BY AREA 16

**CONTACT:** P.O. Box 7325, Macon, GA 31209 or [gssa@aageorgia.org](mailto:gssa@aageorgia.org).

### GSSA OFFICE MANAGER:

Tamera P.

**EMAIL:** [gssa@aageorgia.org](mailto:gssa@aageorgia.org)

### EDITOR: Tom R.

**EMAIL:** [editor@aageorgia.org](mailto:editor@aageorgia.org)

### PUBLISHER: Amy B.

**EMAIL:** [publisher@aageorgia.org](mailto:publisher@aageorgia.org)

# THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA

## Georgia State Service Assembly Business Meeting Minutes Sunday, January 20, 2019 Pending Approval at the May 2019 Business Meeting

### Breaking News

Our Delegate Rick M. announced that the Cuban government has officially recognized Alcoholics Anonymous. Without such recognition AA was unable to have an office or even a telephone line. Cuba has an estimated 1700 members and over 100 active groups.

### Delegate Report – Rick M.

Rick began his report with a welcome and acknowledgement of all attendees at this first assembly in 2019. He then asked how many were attending their very first assembly and extended a warm welcome to them all. Rick then thanked several individuals for their participation over the weekend and went into a few general comments before giving this detailed report:

### A Look Back at the Last Quarter of 2017

A most successful 65<sup>th</sup> Pre-paid convention was held and you'll hear more this morning from the committee chair as he gives the final report. I don't know about you, but I was impressed by a fantastic facility; a very welcoming city! DCM Planning meeting was held in November, we welcomed some new committee chairs and co-chairs. You'll meet and hopefully approve them this morning. We also approved our 2019 GSSA budget and learned of the pre-conference meeting committee assignments for the April meeting here in Macon. The following weekend the Metro District 13 Cluster Forum was held in Tucker; great job!. The next weekend your alternate delegate, Deb K. and I attended the South East Forum in Sterling, VA. More about that a little later. November 17<sup>th</sup> was a PI/CPC workshop in Cherry Log and I hope you heard more about that from our committee. I also want to congratulate and thank Cathy B., our Corrections Committee Chair, on attending and being a part of the committee for the 2nd annual National Corrections Conference held in Portland, ME. I think maybe Georgia is interested in hosting this event in 2021.

### General Service Board 4th Quarter Meeting highlights:

October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018 meeting reported activities of the GSB including A.A. World Services, Inc., A.A. Grapevine, Inc.

### Group Services:

The General Services coordinator reported most changes to the service committee kits for 2019 have been received and are being implemented.

### Technology/Communications/Services:

**Website** - The website redesign is progressing forward with first draft wireframes for the homepage in both desktop and mobile formats in review. The process has moved from a committee style to a project management team with a user testing program to begin before the end of the year.

**AAWS App** – License for the Meeting Finder app has been signed and an announcement letter was sent to area chairs and delegates inviting them to connect to the Meeting Guide. Currently the meeting guide is

listing information from over 200 AA entities and that number is growing as word gets out that it will be a part of the AAWS app. More on this later from our Ad Hoc committee.

### Board Approved Recommendations from Publishing:

The board approved the recommendation by the Publishing Committee: That the pamphlet "The God Word" be priced at \$0.40 per unit in English, French and Spanish (Motion Passed)

### Grapevine Highlights

Newly published book "One Big Tent – Atheist and Agnostic AA Members Share Their Experience, Strength and Hope" has exceeded expectations selling approximately 3,600 copies from Sept. 20 to Oct 24. That more than covered the cost of the book in the first month!

The GV financial report shows that sales are ahead of projections.

Will be translating "Emotional Sobriety" into French. Subscriptions are still going down but not as quickly as projected.

Monthly website traffic is averaging 35,968 unique visitors and 132,780-page views

### Archives

New book "Our Great Responsibility: A Selection of Bill W.'s General Service Conference Talks, 1951 – 1970" – to be published and available the first quarter of 2019.

Photographs from new book "Our Great Responsibility: A Selection of Bill W.'s General Service Conference Talks, 1951 – 1970" – Five archival photographs to be reproduced and made available for A.A. use only following the publication of the book at a suggested contribution of \$2.75 each, based on current suggested contributions for similar items.

Recently acquisitioned film of the founders and their wives in the garden – after much discussion about how to use it's been decided to distribute the film as an item available from the GSO Archives at an appropriate contribution suggestion to defray the cost of reproduction and mailing.

The committee agreed to forward to the 2019 Conference Committee on Archives a request to consider adding the newly accessioned 1940s home movie of the cofounders and their wives to the video "Markings on the Journey".

### Trustees Committee on International Convention/Regional Forums

International Convention: - 2030 site for the IC was recommended and approved: St. Louis! There were so many little things that were in St. Louis, hotel package, transportation, layout of the space, iconic attraction within walking distance. AA community in St. Louis was substantially supportive and enthusiastic. It was noted that Indianapolis presented a strong package and hoped that they would submit again for the 2035 bid.

Carlyle W (Panel 67 delegate) was recommended and approved to serve as the local Volunteer Welcome Committee Chair for the 2020 International Convention. Registration for the 2020 International Convention is

# THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA

scheduled to open in September 2019. A draft video flyer for the 2020 IC was reviewed and will be made available for download on aa.org as soon as it is finalized.

## Trustees Committee on Literature

Questions and Answers on Sponsorship – the committee agreed to forward to the 2019 Conference Committee on Literature a progress report on the revision to the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship”.

The A.A. Group – the committee agreed to forward to the 2019 Conference Committee on Literature a request to revise the pamphlet “The A.A. Group”.

Progress continues to be made on pamphlet revisions to:

- The Twelve Traditions Illustrated
- Too Young?
- Young People and A.A.

## Conference Committee:

The committee discussed reimplementing a simple majority vote practice from a 1986 Advisory Action but has not been implemented since 1995. This action was followed from 1989 to 1995. The committee agreed to forward to the 2019 Conference Policy & Admission Committee the 1986 Advisory Action: “If a committee recommendation does not receive the two-thirds vote required to become a Conference Advisory Action, but has a majority of votes, it automatically becomes a suggestion and be duly noted in the Conference Report”. If the process is reaffirmed, the trustees asked that the committee provide suggestions regarding appropriate action to be taken when a Conference committee recommendation fails but receives a simple majority vote.

The committee discussed a process for how the Conference Agenda Committee could review, discuss and act on Proposed Agenda Items Not Forwarded to a Conference Committee. The subcommittee will work on a final version of the process for review at the January 2019 meeting which may then be forwarded to the Conference committee.

The committee is still discussing Equitable Workload with the idea that it requires a broader discussion that would include trustees’ and delegate committee chairs along with GSO Management and staff members. A proposed plan will be brought back for review in January 2019.

The Committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the Trustees Committee on Literature a request for work to begin on the development of a fifth edition of the Big Book for their review at the 2019 January meeting.

Agenda item for censure or reorganization – the committee discussed a proposal for “all agenda items for censure or reorganization be forwarded directly to the Conference Committee on Trustees” and took no action. The reasons were that any such items have always followed the process of going through a trustees committee and no item for censure or reorganization had NOT been forwarded to a conference committee.

The committee tabled discussion on creating a new Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Elder Community until January 2019.

## CPC/Treatment/Accessibilities

CPC – Court Referrals – as part of the staff report the

committee discussed potential alcoholics coming to A.A. through court referrals and requested the staff secretary to update the A.A. Guidelines on Cooperating with Court, S.W.I. and Similar Programs to better reflect what A.A. is and is not

LinkedIn: examples of how A.A. content could display on a LinkedIn page were reviewed and discussed to reflect the goals included in the 2018 Conference Advisory Action. More will be revealed at the January 2019 meeting after additional work.

## Corrections

Letter on Prerelease and Bridging the Gap – the committee reviewed a rough draft of a letter to Professionals regarding Prerelease and BTG temporary contact volunteer services. The letter is going to be further reviewed with the help of a couple of our Class A trustees who are involved in the court system and be brought back to the January 2019 meeting.

Draft FAQ on Corrections Services - the committee reviewed a rough draft of a FAQ sheet for new chairpersons and which will be included in the kit. It will include sharing from local committees. A subcommittee will review the content and streamline the information for a revised draft review at the January 2019 meeting.

A New Freedom Video – after noting a 2016 additional consideration from the Conference Correction Committee suggesting shorter versions of the video, it was recommended that the existing 30-minute video “A New Freedom” be produced in a 15 and 3 minute version with an estimated cost not to exceed \$12,000. (Motion Passed)

## Trustees Committee Nominating

Partial or Complete Reorganization of the Boards – the committee has gathered information to develop procedures to address this additional consideration from last year’s conference. There is a subcommittee working on this that includes two lawyers and draft procedures or a progress report is due back in January.

GSB position and service requirements and effectiveness: The committee is developing methods to gather shared experience from the fellowship and GSB members, past and current with respect to serving on the board, including workload, terms of service and rotation. A progress report will be given at the January meeting.

## Trustees Committee on Public Information

The committee agreed to forward to the 2019 Conference Committee on Public Information a request that the video PSA “My World” be discontinued.

The committee continues to work on developing language to reflect that A.A.’s anonymity Traditions are not a cloak protecting criminal or inappropriate behavior and will continue to discuss at the January 2019 meeting.

## Finance Highlights

For the nine months ended September 30, 2018 revenues were 1.66% higher than budgeted and 1.14% lower than the 9 months ended September 30, 2017. Operating expenses were 1.72% greater than budgeted and 8.37% more than last year. Contributions were \$5,830,773 or 1.66% higher than budget and .87% lower than this point last year. Online contributions for the first 9 months of 2018 were \$571,165 which accounts for 9.80% of our total contributions.

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Georgia = \$92,354 53.05% of Groups (417 of 786) (down from 2017 – 53.09 vs 53.05%)

## General Service Conference – May 19th – 25th

I will be a member of two committees, the Literatur Committee and, the Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums. I'm excited I have received these assignments! Last year at conference, I was appointed co-chair of the Literature committee and Chair of the IC/RF committee. I'm honored to have been invited to attend and participate in the Board Meeting Weekend next weekend where, it will be decided what agenda items will be forwarded to the 69th General Service Conference for consideration.

We will have our Pre-conference meeting on April 6th to discuss all these agenda topics for this year's GSC. The background material should be available by the 2nd week of February for distribution. I would like to make it available on our website for download.

## A.A. Internal/External Communications Audit

In my May report to you, I mentioned there were communications audit personnel attending the General Service Conference. They were there continuing to collect audit information on behalf of a firm contracted by the GSB. The audit report is now complete. I have made this report available to you on our website.

Now I want to briefly tell you about this report with the intent that you read it, take it to your groups, discuss it, and come back in May and be prepared to bring back your group's recommendations/thoughts for GSO and, more importantly, A.A..

There were three key objectives for this Audit:

Better understand the current state of G.S.O.'s, A.A.W.S.'s, and AAGV's internal and external communications assets, channels, and processes – assessing each for its effectiveness in (directly or indirectly) supporting A.A.'s primary purpose.

Identify different groups connected to the fellowship that need to be reached, and the best means of reaching them "where they are".

Define gaps and opportunities in current communications.

In essence, the report's findings focus on a number of important areas that are critical to our overall ability to communicate effectively, both within the Fellowship (i.e., to each other) and to the general public – those outside the Fellowship, whether they are interested in A.A. or are still-suffering alcoholics looking for a solution.

On a positive note, the findings indicate that A.A.'s primary purpose is alive and well at the group level. However, communicating that primary purpose and other information is getting somewhat lost at the Board level, within the Conference structure, and at the administrative level.

The findings also indicate that while many within the Fellowship consider it to be "lifesaving" and "a program for living," A.A. is often perceived by those outside the Fellowship as "religious," and is often characterized as reactive as opposed to pro-active in our communications.

These are just a few of the conclusions reached. And yet, as we all know and have experienced first-hand, the power of A.A. to change lives and to lift alcoholics out of the darkness and into the light is unparalleled. Together, we are part of an amazing Fellowship that offers the

hand of recovery literally around the world.

So, the job set out before us is to search out our flaws and rededicate ourselves to overcoming whatever is keeping us from reaching any and all who need us. That is the purpose of the communications audit embarked on, and, while we recognize that it will be an ongoing effort, the process can begin with each one of us, right now. There are many initiatives that are already occurring in our service structure to extend A.A.'s hand beyond our traditional audiences. The 68th General Service Conference passed a number of Advisory Actions that are related to our goal of reaching anyone who might want AA's help.

## Challenge: Audit Results Input & Discussion – Informed Group Conscience

As you'll see, there are many findings we as an Area can provide input on for the continued betterment of our fellowship's primary purpose. It is my hope, that in May, you'll come back ready to address these findings and we create together constructive input for GSO. In my absence while at the GSC, Deb K. will lead this effort with assistance from our past delegates, office committee, and Service Committee Chairs and Co-chairs.

Thank you again for this honor and privilege to serve you Area 16, Georgia and, A.A. as a whole.

## **End of Delegate's Report**

### **Recognition of past Area Officers**

**Past Delegate & past Treasurer:** David M.

**Past Delegate & past Secretary:** Patty L.

**Past Secretary & past Office Manager:** Glenda G.

**Past Treasurers:** Harold I., Gene T., Diane M., & Rusty L.

**Past Secretary:** Joan M.

### **Review Reports**

## September 2018 GSSA Business Meeting Minutes approved by a show of hands with a correction as follows:

Under discussion of changing the Office Chair position to an elected position, Harold I. was at the microphone and I misquoted his 2nd point. I reported "To have an **ODD** number of people on the OC to have a significant majority". It should have read "To have an **EVEN** number of people on the OC to have a significant majority".

## 65<sup>TH</sup> Pre-Paid Convention (Athens) Report- Jim T, Convention Chair

The 65<sup>th</sup> Prepaid Convention was a huge success! Our speakers did a fantastic job carrying the AA Message of Recovery. Following are some Highlights of the Convention:

### **Finances:**

Budget = \$42,000;

Total Expenses = \$41,926 (-\$74).

We were the first Prepaid to cover all expenses for the Office Committee and Area Chairs (new guidelines). Excellent participation from our Groups in District 16B.

Committees Under Budget: Speakers, Entertain-



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ment, Registration, Convention Committee, Hospitality, and Outreach.

## **Classic Center:**

Total cost (incl. coffee) was \$25,020;

Budget: \$17,364

## **Registration:**

Total registered = 1,396. (Probably closer to 1,500 based on attendance at Saturday night speaker meeting.)

## **Planned Activities:**

- Georgia-Florida Game Viewing: 200 attendees
- Sanford Stadium Tour: 96 attendees
- Georgia Botanical Garden Tour: 43 attendees
- Georgia Museum of Art Tour: 31 attendees
- Fun Run/Walk: 23 participants
- Golf Tournament at Jennings Mill: 14 participants
- Motorcycle Poker Run: 8 participants

Our Host Committee did a fantastic job leading up to and during the Convention. We had a very young committee that was generally fairly new to sobriety. They had an abundance of energy and all did exactly what was expected of them. It was an absolute pleasure to work with them and we all had a great time hosting the 65<sup>th</sup> Prepaid Convention – much laughter and fun was shared by all. District 16B benefitted greatly from the Convention from a Service standpoint. My observation is hosting a Prepaid Convention tends to energize a District. That is certainly the case for ours. I am very grateful for the opportunity to Chair the 65<sup>th</sup> Prepaid Convention. Please extend our thanks throughout your Districts to everyone who attended!

## **The 66th Pre-Paid Convention (Savannah) Report-Liz B., Convention Chair**

The 66<sup>th</sup> Prepaid convention will be held in Savannah Thursday, October 17-Sunday, October 20, 2019. \*It will be held at the Savannah Civic Center's Johnny Mercer Theater.

The theater seats 2500 people, and we have access to the arena as well. There we will have the committees display tables, activity information, literature, and Alanon. There will also be room for break out meetings and workshops.

The committee has invited 6 AA speakers, and an Alanon speaker for Saturday morning. The Friday night entertainment will be hosted by the local YPAA group, Broad Highway, and there will be a fabulous local band with dancing in the ballroom after the speaker on Saturday night.

We currently have 437 registered for the event. You may register at the registration table outside in the lobby. There is a PO Box listed on the registration form that you can mail it into. Please feel free to take hard copies back to your group. Online registration is available at [ageorgia.org](http://ageorgia.org), and hotel information is on the registration form.

The host hotel was the "B" Historic, and is now owned by a new company and called Tryp by Windham. The Rate for the host hotel is \$179. If you have already made a reservation when it was the B Historic, your reservation is still good. Room blocks at all hotels are listed under 66th Georgia Prepaid Convention, and room rates vary from \$109 in the midtown area, to \$219 downtown. There are 300 rooms blocked throughout the city. Information on rates for each hotel is available at the registration table in the lobby. Cut off for registration within the room block is September 17th.

We have created a Facebook group page for those attending the convention. Information and hotel links are on there. It's listed under 66th Georgia State Prepaid Convention - 2019 Savannah, GA attendees' group. Anyone who is already in the group can add you to the group if you are one of their friends. There are already over 450 members in this secret group.

The paid events we will be offering are a kayak tour on Friday and possibly a paddle board tour on Saturday at a cost of \$55 each. The vendor asks that you make reservations and pay for either the kayak or paddle board tours directly with them. The tour is listed under 66th Prepaid, and contact information for the vendor is on the back of the registration form. If there is a lot of interest in either tour, we will be able to offer a second tour of either or both events. There will also be a motorcycle poker run on Saturday at 9am. The committee is offering a complete lunch, a commemorative patch, and a hand for \$20. Additional hands will be available for \$5 each. There is also talk about creating t-shirts for the run. The sub-committee for the poker run will contact those who have expressed an interest to participate about t-shirts in the upcoming months. There will be the traditional low-country-boil offered on Saturday evening before the speaker on the northern veranda at a cost of \$28. The dinner has limited seating, and the first 275 who send in their money will receive a meal ticket in their registration packet. Please mail your check for the low-country-boil to the PO Box on the registration form. You may also pay for it at the registration table in the lobby.

There are so many things to do in Savannah, and we can't possibly satisfy every request. To resolve this, we have decided to provide a Savannah Guide that will provide information on tours, golf, dining and more. This table will be manned by local AA members in the Savannah tourist industry.

District 5 looks forward to hosting the 66th Georgia Prepaid convention in Savannah. We hope to see all of you there!

## **Alternate Delegate Report — Debi K.**

**Cluster Forum-** Theme voted by the General Service Conference April 2018 and approved at GSSA September 2018:

*Our Big Book- 80 years, 71 Languages*

Topics include:

- Yesterday's World- Our Legacies Begin

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- Today's World-Demonstrating Integrity, Anonymity, and Service
  - Tomorrow's World-Courage to be Vigilant
- When you read the Communications audit, think about how these are addressed in the report.

## **Four Cluster Forums this year:**

- **Southeast:** The first one is in St. Simon's on March 16<sup>th</sup>. St. Simon's Presbyterian Church, 205 King's Way. 9:00-1:00. I hope all of you can come!
- **East Central Cluster-** June 2019-Look for their flyer April 1
- **Northwest-** Aug. 2019- Look for their flyer June 1
- **District 17-** April 14, 2019 Tara Club -575 North Central Avenue, Atlanta, GA 30354. This is also District 17's 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary. There will be an Anniversary Celebration as well as the Cluster Forum. Festivities begin at 12:00 PM. District 17 has lots of exciting events this year!

**Georgia State Spanish Convention-**May 18 & 19, Fairfield Inn and Suites, Gwinnett Place

**National Hispanic Convention of US and Canada:** Aug 30-Sept 1. Location in Atlanta area TBD. We are very excited to host this event in Area 16!

## **2019 Pre-Paid Convention**

66th Georgia Prepaid Convention  
October 17th – 20th, 2019

The Savannah Civic Center 301 W. Oglethorpe Ave.,  
Savannah, GA 31401

"OUR BIG BOOK - 80 YEARS, 71 LANGUAGES"

Registration forms available online.

We will be taking bids for the 68<sup>th</sup> Georgia Prepaid Convention following the guidelines in our Georgia Service Manual:

## **Bids for 68th Prepaid Convention October 2021**

The DCM makes his/her district's bid for the convention, two years in advance. This presentation should include the exact dates, location, names of hotels or motels, rates of lodging and meals, capacities of auditoriums and other pertinent information including the desirability of holding the convention in a particular district.

District 16, Zones C, D, & E will be making a bid during New Business.

## **Other Area Events during the first quarter of 2019:**

- **Corrections Certification Training**—GSSA Office Macon—**Jan 26<sup>th</sup>**
- **Delegate's Get Together**—Crowne Plaza Atlanta Airport **Feb.7-9**
- **Unity Weekend**—Lawrenceville, GA, **Feb. 8-9**
- **Freedom from Bondage Conference**—Aberdeen, NC, **March 8-10**
- **SE Cluster Forum** St. Simon's Island St. Simon's Presbyterian Church **March 16**

- **DCM Pre-conference Meeting** Centenary United Methodist Church **April 6th**  
**NOTE NEW LOCATION**  
1185 Ash Street Macon,
- **District 17 Cluster Forum April 14**
- **GCYPAA XXVIII** Visit [gcypaa.ga](http://gcypaa.ga)—Radisson Hotel Marietta, GA 30067 **May 10-12, 2019**
- **Georgia Service Assembly May 17-19**
- **General Service Conference May 19-25**

## Secretary Report—Tracy M.

### **Attendance Report**

DCMS	42
ALT. DCMS	29
DISTRICT SECRETARY/TREASURERS	5
GSRS	251
ALT. GSRS	62
GROUP SECRETARY/TREASURERS	12
GRAPEVINE REPS	7
TREATMENT FACILITY REPS	11
CORRECTIONAL FACILITY REPS	12
COMMUNICATIONS	3
PI/CPC REPS	10
ARCHIVE REPS	4
MEMBERS	52
TOTAL	500

### **Group Information**

Please remember to keep your group information updated on the website and for the service directory. this can be done on our website by going to [aageorgia.org](http://aageorgia.org) and clicking on the group meeting change form and the group information form, both under the find a meeting tab.

### **District Minutes**

Remember to email your district minutes to [district-minutes@aageorgia.org](mailto:district-minutes@aageorgia.org). GSR's can also email their business meeting minutes to their DCM's.

### **District e-mail**

Our preferred form of communication with you is thru your district email box accessible by going to: [district@aageorgia.org](mailto:district@aageorgia.org).

Thank you for helping us carry the message with accurate information.

### Treasurer's Report—Cristy G.

On my slides you will see actuals from the 2019 budget that your DCM's approved in November. I will be spending time on the 2018 numbers of December 31, 2018.

### Review of Assembly Procedures

#### AD-HOC Reports

**Motion-** "I make a motion that Area 16 consider participating in a mobile app called "Meeting Guide" that has

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**AREA 16**  
GEORGIA STATE SERVICE ASSEMBLY

INCOME

	2019 Budget	2018 Actual	2018 Budget	2018 Difference
Ordinary Income	\$166,720.53	\$176,626.39	\$169,237.50	\$7,388.89
Literature Income and Interest	\$115,650.00	\$108,965.46	\$104,600.00	\$4,365.46
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$282,370.53</b>	<b>\$285,591.85</b>	<b>\$273,837.50</b>	<b>\$11,754.35</b>

aageorgia.org | gssa@aageorgia.org | P.O. Box 7325 Macon, GA 31209 | Phone: 478-745-2588 | Gssa@2006

**AREA 16**  
GEORGIA STATE SERVICE ASSEMBLY

EXPENSES BY COMMITTEE

	2019 Budget	2018 Actual	2018 Budget	2018 Difference
OFFICE COMMITTEE	\$8,180.00	\$5,291.69	\$8,380.00	(\$3,088.31)
PI/CPC	\$1,890.00	\$990.12	\$1,790.00	(\$799.88)
COMMUNICATIONS	\$5,930.00	\$1,675.44	\$9,043.33	(\$7,367.89)
TREATMENT	\$2,940.00	\$1,924.99	\$2,040.00	(\$115.01)
CORRECTIONS	\$3,490.00	\$2,030.67	\$3,540.00	(\$1,509.33)
ARCHIVES	\$2,490.00	\$5,393.33	\$5,323.33	\$70.00
GRAPEVINE	\$1,640.00	\$1,259.20	\$1,690.00	(\$430.80)
MISCELLANEOUS	\$3,800.00	\$8,209.04	\$4,100.00	\$4,109.04

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**AREA 16**  
GEORGIA STATE SERVICE ASSEMBLY

EXPENSES

	2019 Budget	2018 Actual	2018 Budget	2018 Difference
COMMITTEES	\$30,360.00	\$26,774.48	\$35,906.66	(\$9,132.18)
ASSEMBLY	\$43,276.44	\$40,853.55	\$40,307.40	\$546.15
OPERATIONS	\$111,786.04	\$110,442.44	\$103,891.51	\$6,580.93
LITERATURE	\$97,162.50	\$97,318.94	\$93,287.50	\$4,031.44
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$282,584.98</b>	<b>\$275,389.41</b>	<b>\$273,393.07</b>	<b>\$2,026.34</b>

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**AREA 16**  
GEORGIA STATE SERVICE ASSEMBLY

TOTALS

	2019 Budget	2018 Actual	2018 Budget	2018 Difference
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$282,370.53</b>	<b>\$285,591.85</b>	<b>\$273,837.50</b>	<b>\$11,754.35</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$282,584.98</b>	<b>\$275,389.41</b>	<b>\$273,393.07</b>	<b>\$1,996.34</b>
<b>DIFFERENCE</b>	<b>(\$214.45)</b>	<b>\$10,142.44</b>	<b>\$444.43</b>	<b>\$9,698.01</b>

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## End of Review Reports

been created to help alcoholics find AA meetings across the US, Canada, and beyond.”

Report was given by Micah G.

**Committee Members** Whitney S., DCM 3C- Chair; Daniel L., GSR Vision For You 16E; Micah G. Area CO-Chair PICPC, Area 16 Ad-Hoc Committee Report January 2019 Georgia State Service Assembly Area 16 Ad-Hoc Committee Report

At the September 2018 Area 16 Assembly a motion was made as follows, I make a motion that Area 16 consider participating in a mobile app called “MEETING GUIDE” that has been created to help alcoholics find AA meetings across the US, Canada and beyond. They are a non-profit organization run solely by volunteer AA members, and are supported by donations, there is no charge for the app and no ads. An ad-hoc committee was formed of myself, Micah G. and Daniel L. Together we formed a committee to research and investigate Area 16 possibly participating in the mobile app “Meeting Guide”. We met via telephone conference several times and used email and text mes-

sages to convey and relay information amongst the committee throughout our time working together.

**How It Works:** According to the Meeting Guide Website, being that meeting information changes constantly, their system updates its database by scanning the latest information from compatible official area websites twice daily.

**GSO - Into Action** Micah contacted Clement C. (Communications Services) directly at GSO who confirmed that Meeting Guide is now owned by Alcoholics Anonymous. Clement then informed us that Josh, the app developer and who is also a member of Alcoholics Anonymous, has donated the app to GSO. The app was donated under the condition that if GSO ever decides against using the app, they will give the rights back over to the app developer. Therefore, Josh has been hired by Alcoholics Anonymous as a special worker for the year of 2019 to help during the apps transition with an annual salary of \$50,000. On November 2nd, 2018 Greg T. announced GSO would be licensing the Meeting guide data for [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) and for a future A.A.W.S. app. The following statement was released on

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the site under the "What's New?" section. "The General Service Office is pleased to announce that Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc., has licensed the Meeting Guide technology. The intent of licensing this technology is to make it easier for members to find A.A. meetings. More information will be available in the future through G.S.O.'s website." Being that Josh R. is the app developer and is being held accountable for all of the happenings involving the app, it was suggested by Clement that we contact Josh directly. His contact email was listed on [www.meetingguide.org](http://www.meetingguide.org). At this point Josh was contacted directly and asked a series of questions.

(1) If we participated as an area, would an individual group be able to opt out of participating. His response, A Group would be able to opt out of being on the app yet still could remain on the website. The website administrator would have to create a new field in the form of JSON feed which would be a hidden page to be updated.

(2) What does the donation on the website indicate? Currently, MEETING GUIDE is a non-profit and in order to follow those guidelines, they must have some way to receive contributions. Being in alignment with the 7th Tradition, they wanted the contributions to only be received by A.A. members which an individual would have to clarify on the contribution page. Upon the full transition of the app to GSO after the calendar year, the contribution tab will be removed.

(3) If group information is entered twice (by two different websites), which one would take precedence? It isn't a matter of close proximity at this time but rather whatever information is added first will hold the priority. The system will default to the original group data that was entered. If a dataset was uploaded, they would be skipped for two reasons. 1) already registered with a group 2) address was not legible (geocoding) for google maps. Google gets confused by EXTRA information such as "upstairs" or "around back"

(4) Why does the neighboring Intergroup or AREA information show up as a contact on the app? The app uses rectangular geocoding to section off the area. Sometimes a neighboring state, district or intergroup will overlap. MEETING GUIDE app wants to provide both information as the traveler looking for a meeting may want choices that span the two sections. The app will list the closest

proximity as the primary contact, followed by the secondary and if necessary, a tertiary contact.

(5) Have there been any trends with the website usage being down due to people converting to the app for meetings? Continued users for the website continue to go up but not high increase, just steady. Watching the analytics is important. People should keep visiting and participating in the other areas of the structures. It is important for every group to track the traffic with Google analytics or some similar form.

**New Times and Traditions:** Our Area Assembly showed major concern when it came to the new app and

how it works with traditions. Daniel L. was in charge of researching how the app works with our traditions.

**Tradition 4-** "Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole." -we are not responsible to any authority other than our own now that the licensing has been given to GSO. Each group has the power to choose if they would like to be on the website or not.

**Tradition 6-** "An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose" -now that AA has the licensing the app, it is no longer an outside enterprise.

**Tradition 7-** "Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions." once serving as a non-profit, the MEETING GUIDE app had a "contributions" button as part of the regulations of being a non-profit. In keeping with the Traditions at that time, they only accepted contributions from A.A. members.

**Tradition 8-** "Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers." -the developer of the app Josh R. (also a member of A.A.) has been employed for one to help with the transition and further development of the app for an annual salary of \$50,000

At the time of our assembly, the app was not then owned, leased, nor licensed by GSO. Since our last assembly, the app is now owned by Alcoholics Anonymous. By the end of 2018 the app will no longer have a link that lets its users send or donate money to app, as it is now funded by GSO. With the app now being licensed by GSO and with it being ran by a paid service worker, the app developer himself, this keeps the app in full compliance with AA Traditions.

### ***Past Experience Strength and Hope***

As the acting chair of the Ad-Hoc Committee it was my job to reach out to our current delegate as well as our past delegates to hear their experience, strength and hope on the subject at hand. I reached out to one current acting delegate as well as four past delegates. All were in favor of Area 16 considering using the app.

### ***Global Participation***

After starting on our research we realized the app has been in practice for at least two years. In the past two years Meeting Guide has over 42 states in the US participating. As well as several countries including: Continental Europe, Israel, Romania, Slovakia, Tokyo, Canada, and Mexico. Data in the US is collected by the FNV (Fellowship New Vision) which is submitted from AREAs to GSO. That data compared to the individual website data leaves a 25%- 33% discrepancy.

### ***Unity***

We contacted several Intergroups and districts in Area 16 to find out if they were participating or if they plan on participating. First being the Atlanta Intergroup, Micah spoke to the chairman- Jimmy Ho. Jimmy stated that there is an interest in participating in the app pending on them collecting more information. They have a committee established that is currently researching op-

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tions. District 2A and 2B, William R. current DCM 2A stated they have no website capabilities at this time, which makes them unable to participate. Micah spoke to Jordan B. who is an acting Alkanon Board Member from District 7A and 7B. He stated they do have website capabilities at a clubhouse in 7B. They are interested and in the process of researching to see if it is applicable. In the 12th District Central Office, we were able to speak with their chairman, Jimmy He., who stated they have plans to move forward pending more information. District 8 had no website capabilities at the time of us reaching out. Micah also reached out to the Southeast Georgia Intergroup, and spoke to me, Whitney S., DCM 3A. There has been interest in having our meeting schedule on an app, we are still discussing the matter at this time. For the Savannah Intergroup we spoke with Mike S., he states they have been participating since May and at this time plan to continue. Oficina Integrupal Hispana- Ancelmo says District 17 created a website and they would like to move forward with the app. Concerns over bilingual availability were expressed.

### **Our Recommendation**

At this time, our recommendation is "To move forward as an AREA to participate using the MEETING GUIDE app. The Meeting Guide technology has been licensed by Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. There is no charge for the app and no ads. It was created to help alcoholics find meetings in the US, Canada and beyond."

### **Discussion**

Mark D., DCM 15B-Clarification: since the meeting schedules are on the web site for Georgia would that not be where they would pull from for this meeting guide?

Micah G.- Thank you for that. They can currently pull from our web site and that information is there. When first proposed a lot of people that were traveling through interstates coming into Georgia from another state and searching for a meeting you would have multiple options depending on where you are going. Let's say you are going to Savannah. You could look at the Savannah web site or the GSSA web site. With the Meeting Guide universally there is no transition, no searching for the data. In comparison when Mike and I pulled up his home group there were discrepancies with meeting times on the different sources. We can continue to use our web site as a local source. This would be a more universal.

Mark D.- My point is for our group do we need to host our own web-site for us to be involved in this?

Micah G.- You would not need a website to do that. If GSSA decided to participate, then they would pick up any of the meetings that are not included under an intergroup. For example; The Savannah group is already participating. They could continue updating all of their information and meetings under their domain and any surplus that is not participating through a home group or central office. GSSA could pick up the remaining domains resulting in one full source representing the entire body.

Ernie M.-Your current GSSA web site handles groups only. To handle meetings is a whole different process. That would take a whole manual change and another motion.

Mark D.- I see your point in the difference between meetings and groups.

Ernie M.- In the Savannah group I am the Treasurer of a meeting. They are listed in the Savannah Intergroup Schedule. The meeting is listed there as a group. A lot of Intergroups have both meetings and groups listed.

JR GSR- We've Had Enough group- I wanted to bring something up that might be related to Tradition 6. When you download the app and then you look on the google play store related to this app does that create any question. Would that create a slippery slope as far as AA endorsing anything other than that specific app?

Micah- There are no adds associated with that app. To actually go and download the Meeting Guide App it downloads the information directly. There are no outside attachments.

Tom- Member at Large- We tried this at my home group. The meeting and the group come up. If we decide not to do this as a body and it's going to come up anyway, what's the point in deciding not to participate.

Micah- To clarify the question. I'm understanding it to be that in the slide presentation that each group has the power to choose to not be on the app. That Json file would be in place and it would hide your group. You could still be part of a web-site if you currently are but you, as a group, would have the power to choose not to be visible on that app.

Charlie-GSR-Swainsboro- If I understand this correctly somebody here in Macon in our office is currently entering these groups or these meetings. Is that correct?

Ernie M.- On the group web site. Yes.

Charlie- If we join this group which is already approved and GSO owns it and everybody goes with the new system, that's going to save somebody in our office some time and save us some money. Is that correct?

Ernie M.- Not at this time. We are not aware that there would be any money saved. We handle our own web site at this time which list our groups, locations, maps, etc. That is done by our staff and communications department.

Charlie- If this new system works would we have to vote again to not have duplication.

Micah- This is not a replacement for the web site. This would be a companion, an alternate source for various people. The duplicates would come up when information is being entered and that would be contingent on whether it was an intergroup participating or GSSA participating. Any duplicate information would be flagged and could be removed. Both sources would still be available to those that choose to participate.

Charlie- If it works why should we continue with a duplicate effort.

Micah- It's not a duplicate. It's an expanded service available also linked to a lot more coding. We

## THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA

have been re-vamping the web site. There is a lot more available through the website that is not through the app. The app would be more of a simplified version. There wouldn't be any duplicated efforts. Does that help you?

Charlie- I'm not sure. Is it appropriate for me to make a motion at this time to appoint another committee to come back and see how this works?

Ernie- No.

Rebecca- Sir, there is a duplicate effort because Tamra, in the office, updates the information. It systematically is sent to the app. The owners of the app don't put in the data. We put in the data and send it to them.

Charlie- Gotcha. Thank You.

Ernie- Clarifying. There is not going to be a vote today. If Georgia decides to not be a part of it that's fine. We can not stop the intergroups or central offices from being a part of it. If they decide to go into it the from intergroup would be available on Meeting Guide. It may not be the same as we have here. There's not a lot of cooperation between the intergroup and the Area.

Jane A-Early Sunday Morning Group; Woodstock-What platforms are available? Currently on my phone it says it's available for I phone, I pad. I don't see anything about Android or any other version. Not everybody carries an I Phone.

Micah- There's expanded information that describes that it is available for all devices. If you're looking at it on a mobile device right now you are not getting the same formatting you would be from a lap top. They do have a web site available. A lot of this is expanded to include the different devices with the 42 states that are participating they've generated a lot of data over the last couple of years including expansion of devices.

Natalie-16C- I downloaded the app. Obviously, we don't have it here in Georgia. I was looking at the other meetings in New York. It looks very efficient. It is my understanding that the developer of the app if this doesn't pass in our state, it would go back to him? Then it's a possibility it could go back at cost because a lot of apps do cost money. Right now, it's free.

Micah- Thank you for clarifying that. When licensing did not belong to GSO they were self-supporting as a nonprofit. The licensing has transitioned. If GSO after acquiring the licensing decides as a whole that they do not want to participate, rights will be given back to the developer. If our Area decides not to participate that would not impact GSO's licensing.

Natalie- So we could not have the ability to find meetings on this app?

Micah- Unless, as Ernie suggested, the intergroups and central offices like Savannah participate. We are deciding whether GSSA will participate.

Ernie-The slide that you showed with GA participating, is that the download they are taking from our Savannah Intergroup.

Rebecca- No. That's just the Savannah Intergroup.

Sam- GSR-Bottom Feeder's In Decatur- At the beginning on the first slide, I think you mentioned GSO

owned it. Then you mentioned licensing. If it's licensed at a certain point is there a term where it can be sold to AA when the license ends? Is it actually owned by GSO or this Josh guy?

Micah-The licensing has been gifted to GSO. If they choose not to remain there are no terms on the licensing. They've made a written agreement to pass the licensing back. Ownership is not effective as licensing of the app.

Dan-In Step Group 12B, in being proactive versus reactive, my point is this app going to help alcoholics reach for AA and help AA reach for alcoholics. The answer is yes. We have the Big Book in hard print and it was only last year that I downloaded it on my cell phone. I have it even if I don't have the book. It looks like this is a good thing for AA. It fits the needs of the program instead of being afraid to try something new.

Pat GSR Winner's Circle 13K- Concerning duplication. What I have found with my smart phone is that there are times when I don't have data but my apps still work. The apps don't use the data. You could use the app when you can't reach the website.

Fred DCM 16C- Point of Order. Call to Order

DD Alcoholic I make a motion we end discussion on this topic.

Ernie-I can't accept that motion

Amy S. GSR Greenhouse group, I call the question.

Rebecca-I need a GSR to second that please.

Unidentified Member- Actually this is off that topic. I wanted to ask a question. During the Treasurer's report it said that.

Ernie- Stop. I'm sorry we have a call the question on the floor.

Mark-GSR-Douglasville Group- I second that call the question.

Ernie- All those in favor of calling the question. Approved by a show of hands. At this point I will hand this over to our Delegate if that is agreeable to the floor.

Unidentified-During the Treasury report it said the donations were 500,000 dollars and the website committees decided not to take that money. I don't understand why when that's bringing in a revenue. Did I misunderstand that?

Ernie- I think you did.

Micah-To clarify: The donation is under the Meeting Guide app. It doesn't have anything to do with AA.

**We have a motion requiring a manual change to be voted on.**

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

**Discussion:**

Liz B. -GSR 5C Savannah group- I wanted to point out that in our Service Manual on page 39 it states an Office Committee consisting of:

- Delegate
- State Chairperson

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- State Secretary
- State Treasurer
- Alternate Delegate
- Immediate past State Chairperson

If we make the State Chairperson an elected position the manual places the immediate past State Chairperson in the Office Committee having two years of experience with the committee already. If we go to the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee the current eight-year commitment for the State Delegate will be reduced to four years. Then we will have a new elected position. Two years as State Chair and two years as Office Chair. We would not have to make any more manual changes.

There was no further discussion on motion.

Vote: 125 Yes, 113 No; 2/3 majority needed to pass.

- Motion did **not** pass.
- No minority opinion.

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

No discussion on motion.

Vote: 101 Yes, 137 No; 2/3 majority needed to pass.

- Motion did **not** pass.
- No minority opinion.

## New Business

### **Approval of New Area Chairs and Co-Chairs**

Richard R., Chair Treatment Accessibilities, Karen S., Co-Chair Treatment Accessibilities, Ken P., Corrections, and David J., Co-Chair Corrections. (Whitney S., Co-Chair Grapevine, not present).

Approved by a show of hands.

### **Bid for 2021 Prepaid Convention**

#### **Shannon G. Alternate DCM District 16C,**

Duluth as Host City for 2021 Prepaid Convention District 16, Zone C, along with support from Zones D & E, takes great pleasure in proposing Duluth as the host city for the 68<sup>th</sup> Georgia Prepaid Convention on October 22-24, 2021. Availability for these dates has been confirmed with both the Forum and the prospective host hotels. We believe Duluth is the perfect setting for hosting the Prepaid Convention because of what the city and surrounding area has to offer.

The venue for the 68<sup>th</sup> Prepaid Convention would be The Forum in the Infinite Energy Center, which is conveniently located right off of I-85. The Forum offers seating for over 1900 people in the Grand Ballroom along with 23 additional meeting rooms. The facility has wide hallways with ample room for Committee displays. The onsite 2400 space parking garage will be completed later this year.

There are 5 hotels within walking distance: Hilton Garden Inn, Holiday Inn, Embassy Suites, Marriott Courtyard, and the Residence Inn. Also available are 4 additional hotels within a two mile radius. The price range is 99.00 – 139.00. The Infinite Energy Center has awarded a contract to build an onsite Westin hotel

which is projected to be completed by 2021.

There are 12 restaurants within walking distance and several others less than 5 miles away with a price range of 7.00 – 25.00 on average. The Infinite Energy Center is in the process of adding a 118-acre mixed-use facility which will include restaurants and retail shopping. Expected completion is early 2021.

Duluth offers the old, new, and everything in between. Downtown has unique shops and restaurants, along with the Town Center, Hudgens Center for the Arts, and a railroad museum. Around town there are movie theatres, golfing, shopping malls, and the Ice Forum.

Not far from The Forum are many regional attractions that give people options for activities during down time whether it be fishing on Lake Lanier, hiking around the Chattahoochee, climbing Stone Mountain, seeing a play, visiting the zoo, or sightseeing as you drive to the beautiful and majestic North Georgia mountains.

The Forum, along with Explore Gwinnett, are excited to see the Prepaid happen in Duluth. They have a lot of experience with conventions and would be a great resource to the committee.

District 16C sincerely appreciates your consideration of Duluth as the location for the 68<sup>th</sup> Prepaid Convention. Thank you.

There were no other bids. Assembly will vote in May whether to approve the 2021 Convention in Duluth.

### **Proposal to move Assembly to Dublin for the years 2021 and 2022**

Ernie M. -In September, Rusty and I presented this bid to the DCM's. The DCM's took this back to their districts. In November at the DCM planning meeting we voted on the proposal and 2/3 majority approved the move. We now bring the proposal the Assembly body for your vote.

Ernie gave the proposal listing the complaints concerning the Marriott. Other options were investigated. We are contracted to hold GSSA at the Marriott through 2020.

### **Discussion**

Mitch M., DCM 7B- Have we approached the Marriott and said to them that 35 dollars a gallon for coffee, we are not paying that much. If you do that to us we are leaving.

Rebecca T., Office Committee Chair-We have. In the last several years every time that we've signed a new contract it's basically gone up the same thing. The price that she originally quoted me was like 42 dollars plus the gratuity and tax. I reminded her that no, that's not good. We're not going up that much in coffee and what we had done in the past. Our coffee price is inclusive of the gratuity and the tax. Each time we've signed a new contract it has gone up like 5 dollars a gallon. We've never said hey we're leaving. We didn't want to cut our nose off to spite our face. We really haven't pushed for that 2021 contract like we normally would have.

## THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA

Mitch M. Could we limit how much coffee we make?

Ernie- After much laughter from the body. I think you have your answer

John S., 5<sup>th</sup> Tradition Group, Atlanta-Alternate DCM 13D- Do they have hot water in Dublin?

Ashley-GSR; 13A-I polled the individual members of my group with time to get their opinion on it and the only topic I was asked to bring up was that Macon has become such a known entity that if a dark group wanted to come back it could potentially cause confusion with it being in Dublin.

Ernie-This is a proposal for 2021. We have all of 2019 and 2020 to inform the groups in our area of the change.

DD- Savannah- I make a motion we go to Dublin.

Ernie- I have a Proposal. I now have a motion to

make the move. Do I have a second on the motion?

Davey J., GSR-Magnus Group, I second that.

**Vote:** 194 Yes, 47 No; 2/3 majority needed to pass.

- Motion passed.
- No minority opinion
- Assembly will move in 2021

### General Sharing

Amy S. GSR-Greenhouse Group, Norcross-As long as I've been sober we've been having Assembly in Macon. I'm wondering if this is a Historic moment. Since the creation of Area 16 have we ever had Assembly anywhere other than Macon?

Ernie-No.

Amy S. Welcome to history people.

DD, GSR; Savannah GA, I make a motion that we adjourn.

GSR-Inaudible, 2nd the motion to close.

## CALENDAR of EVENTS

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

<b>March 8-10</b>	<b>Freedom from Bondage Conference</b>	Aberdeen, NC
<b>March 8-10</b>	<b>Flint River Roundup</b>	Albany
<b>March 8-10</b>	<b>G.A.L.S.</b>	Toccoa
<b>March 16</b>	<b>SE Cluster Forum</b> St. Simon's Presbyterian Church Includes (3A,3B,3C,3D,4,5A,5B,5C,5D)	St. Simon's Island
<b>March 15-17</b>	<b>Atlanta Men's Workshop</b>	Rockeagle
<b>March 23</b>	<b>Metro Service Meeting</b>	NABA/Atlanta
<b>April 6</b>	<b>DCM Pre-conference Meeting</b>	Macon
<b>April 14</b>	<b>District 17 Cluster Forum (Espanol)</b>	
<b>May 3-5</b>	<b>Marietta Spring Roundup</b>	Marietta
<b>May 10-12</b>	<b>GCYPAA XXVIII</b> Radisson Hotel Viisit <a href="http://gcypaa.ga">gcypaa.ga</a>	Marietta
<b>May 17-19</b>	<b>Georgia State Service Assembly</b>	Macon/Marriott
<b>May 25</b>	<b>Corrections Certification Training</b>	Macon/GSSA
<b>May 19-25</b>	<b>69th General Service Conference</b>	New York

### MACON MARRIOTT 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 (GSSA) GEORGIA STATE SERVICE ASSEMBLY, TO GET THE GROUP RATE. PLEASE REMEMBER THE CUT OFF DATE IS April 17, 2019. ROOM RESERVATION COMES WITH FREE WI-FI.

**Article deadline for the May/June 2019 Georgia Message for AA is April 1, 2019**

**The Georgia Message for AA is available in print and in electronic form on the Area 16 website at:**

[www.aageorgia.org](http://www.aageorgia.org)

**There is no subscription fee for this newsletter, however all contributions are appreciated.**

**Contributions can be made electronically at [www.aageorgia.org](http://www.aageorgia.org)**





JUNE 22, 2019 10 AM- 2 PM  
DUBOSE PORTER CENTER @ OCONEE FALL  
LINE TECHNICAL COLLEGE  
560 PINEHILL RD  
DUBLIN, GA 31201

*Area*  
**TREATMENT  
WORKSHOP**

SKITS, TREATMENT PANEL, SPEAKERS,  
Q & A, FOOD, FELLOWSHIP AND FUN



**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS  
AREA 16 - DISTRICT 17**

## **District 17 invites you to their 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Cluster Forum**

**Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Starting at 12PM**

**Lunch/Dinner will be served**

**Presentations by Office Committee Members, Service  
Committee Chairs/CoChairs, & District 17**

**TARA Club**

**575 North Central Avenue**

**Atlanta, GA 30354**

**Translators available**

# ¿Bilingüe?

*Enhance your  
Recovery  
through  
Service!*



*Give back what  
has been so  
freely given!*

## **Help us “Carry the Message” to our Hispanic Members!**

**We still need a few more written translators to meet the  
current needs of our Hispanic Members.**

**If you, or someone you know, has the necessary skills to  
be of service providing written Spanish translation please  
complete the Translation Volunteer Form located under  
the Communications Committee on the  
[aageorgia.org](http://www.aageorgia.org) website.**

**<https://www.aageorgia.org/communications.html>**



# 66<sup>th</sup> Georgia Prepaid Convention October 17<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019

The Savannah Civic Center  
301 W. Oglethorpe Ave., Savannah,  
GA 31401

## “OUR BIG BOOK - 80 YEARS, 71 LANGUAGES”

### AA Speakers:

Robert T. - Baltimore, MD  
Francine W. - Mill Valley, CA  
Sheldon F. - Las Vegas, NV  
June G. - Los Angeles, CA  
Ralph W. - Los Angeles, CA  
Amy D. - Louisville, KY

### AL-ANON Speaker:

Denise C. - Fayetteville, Ga



### **Hotel Information on Reverse Side**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

AFFILIATION: AA: \_\_\_\_\_ SOBRIETY DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ AL-ANON: \_\_\_\_\_ ALATEEN: \_\_\_\_\_

ACTIVITIES:  LOW COUNTRY BOIL (Sat PM, Oct 19): \_\_\_\_\_ (Pre-pay \$28)  YOGA: \_\_\_\_\_ (No charge)

 MOTORCYCLE POKER RUN (Sat AM, Oct 19): \_\_\_\_\_ (Pre-pay \$20 – fee includes lunch, patch, poker hand)

 KAYAKING (Fri AM, Oct 18): \_\_\_\_\_  PADDLE BOARD (Sat AM, Oct 19): \_\_\_\_\_ (SEE REVERSE SIDE to reserve)

 SPECIAL NEEDS: HEARING (Signer available): \_\_\_\_\_ SIGHT: \_\_\_\_\_ WHEELCHAIR: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_ (If other, please explain \_\_\_\_\_)

 **Mail Registration Form to:** 66<sup>th</sup> Georgia Prepaid Convention, P.O. Box 16324, Savannah, GA 31416

**Out-of-State registration fee:** AA & AL-ANON, \$25; Alateen, \$10 (Cash or checks only. Make Checks Payable to 66<sup>th</sup> GA Prepaid Convention) **Email Contact:** [66thprepaid@aageorgia.org](mailto:66thprepaid@aageorgia.org)