AREA 16
GEORGIA STATE SERVICE ASSEMBLY

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A MESSAGE FROM AREA 16

Dear Area 16 Members,

Welcome to this bimonthly Area 16 newsletter! This is your source for Area updates, upcoming events, service opportunities, and important information for our groups and districts.

Thank you for your continued service and dedication to carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous.

AREA OFFICER ARTICLES

Delegate: delegate@aageorgia.org

Changes are Coming

I am glad to announce the Georgia Message is going to get a facelift. I asked the assembly for permission to do so and they agreed. I am currently getting a committee together design a new Georgia Message. They are going to address layout, content, distribution. And format. Now for the good news. I need members who have experience in design, graphic design, and technology to serve on the committee. If you have those skills, please email at delegate@aageorgia.org or call me at 770-906-8081. I hope to have it done in the first quarter.

The Fifth Edition on Alcoholics Anonymous should be available in February of 2027. The book will be published with a nondescript cover and will include a dust jacket. The cost in going to be $ 20.00. Please ask our State Archivist about the importance of saving the dust jacket. Make sure you have plenty of time. There was a Fifth Edition update sent to all DCM's on 09/17. Check with your DCM if you have not received it.

Tidbits from the Southeast Regional Forum

Grapevine Subscription and Books will increase $ 2.00 the first of the year.

Publication F-15 will give you the staff assignments at GSO.

There is a new Young Peoples page on aa.org

There is an AA Gang Sign. Who knew? Ask anyone who was at assembly.

The New AA Service Manual became available October 9th.

We're excited to announce that the first release of the Everything AA app under the ownership of A.A. World Services is now available. Users are encouraged to update to Version 5.0, which includes important technical and infrastructure improvements designed to make the app stable, reliable, and ready for future development. The app remains free to download, with an optional subscription of $1.99 per month or $19.99 per year to support continued development and

maintenance; subscribers will receive bonus content and are not making Seventh Tradition contributions through their subscriptions.

The subscription gives you access to literature not available in the free version. The subscription is not a seventh tradition contribution; The subscription is an access fee.

When I asked the General Manger of AAWS why we bought the Everything AA App his reply was surprising. We were either going to have to sue the owner to remove AA copywritten literature or just buy the App. It was going to be cheaper to buy it. Plus, it would allow us to carry the message to over a million people a month who are currently using the app.

I am forwarding 1-3 messages per week from GSO in order to keep you informed. Thos emails are going to your DCM's to be forwarded to you. If you are not getting those communications, please make sure you GSR has your correct email.

I hope you have a pleasant holiday season. I will see you in January.

Mark G. Area 16 Delegate

Alternate Delegate: altdelegate@aageorgia.org

Tradition Two: The Spirit of Rotation

As we wind up the year, we may have trusted servants rotating out and rotating in. This is a great time to ask ourselves if we are doing everything we can to ensure that the message is available to the alcoholic near us? That's the entire point of our service structure, and yet that can easily be overlooked.

One way to examine what we're doing is to look at how we're preparing our trusted servants in our Group, Zone, or District. In a perfect world, the newly elected would be given every available resource, and we currently have a rich lode of resources available online. See, for example, the DCM resources on the Area 16 website, and check out the document that lists DCM responsibilities and considerations.

But we can't access these resources if we don't know about them, or if we don't think it's our job. In your corners of AA, this is a great time to have discussions about rotation, why we rotate, who's going to bring the new trusted servants up to speed, and what resources we need to share. For example, does your group (etc.) have passwords or keys that need to be shared for physical or on-line resources? Do you have documents that spell out the duties and responsibilities of each office? Are you suggesting or offering and modeling service sponsorship? While this can seem overwhelming, please remember that AA's got you. The pamphlet The AA Group…where it all begins is a great place to start. Among other things, it explains clearly how groups function, the duties of the various officers in a group, how the group fits within the district or zone, and what service sponsorship is and what it might look like.

Tradition Two reminds us that we are governed only by a loving God that expresses itself through our group conscience. Rotation in service roles ensures that the group has the benefit of multiple voices and points of view, all of which make our group conscience much richer.

As always, I welcome your calls and emails. It's a pleasure and honor to serve as your Alternate Delegate. Amy B

Secretary: secretary@aageorgia.org

As I reflect on the past three years serving Area 16, my heart is overflowing with gratitude, love, and excitement for what lies ahead. It has been an incredible honor and a humbling responsibility to serve God and my fellows in Alcoholics Anonymous. This opportunity has given me so much more than I could ever put into words, and I will forever cherish the people, experiences, and lessons that have shaped my journey.

As we approach the final events of the year, I cannot wait to spend time with each of you, share in our fellowship, and celebrate the incredible work being done throughout our area. Watching Area 16 grow over these past three years has been one of the greatest privileges of my service. Seeing groups become stronger, districts come together, and members step into service with willing hearts reminds me why we do what we do. We are here

because someone once showed us the way, and it is our responsibility to keep that door open for the alcoholic who has yet to find us.

As we look toward our January Assembly, I encourage each GSR and DCM to ensure that your group and district or zone public servants, along with their meeting information, are current and up to date. Communication and connection are essential to keeping our fellowship accessible and our service structure strong.

I hope to see every one of you at the January Assembly, ready to begin another year with more passion, enthusiasm, and willingness to serve than ever before. Let us continue carrying the message, supporting one another, and remembering that our common purpose is bigger than any one of us.

Thank you for allowing me to be a small part of something so meaningful. I am leaving this chapter with a grateful heart, lifelong memories, and an even deeper love for Alcoholics Anonymous and the people who make it what it is.

I love you all, and I look forward to seeing you soon. Keep showing up, keep serving, and keep carrying the message. The best is yet to come!

With love and gratitude,

Your Area 16 Area Secretary, Kirby M.

Treasurer:

The Treasury - Where Money & Spirituality Mix

Part 3 - Questions I have been asked since January, 2025. These are my answers. Are my answers the only way? No. Just sharing what groups/districts have asked and how they were answered.

Q: What do you do with “Star Notes” or collectible contributions?

A: If it is a thing - like a book or other AA collectible item - Connect with the Georgia Archives Committee and hand it over. If it is in the basket as cash: Gold & Silver coins, Blue, Red, or Star notes (This is a US dollar amount 1,2,5,10,20,50, etc. with special symbols or stamps on it.) or any other exorbitant financial contribution…. First - set it aside. It would not be good AA financial stewardship to deposit a bill worth $100 as just a $1! It could have been dropped in the basket in error. I found collectible medallions in a Pink Can and returned them to the owner! Second - Google a possible value of the item. Third - at your business meeting - let the body know that a special bill/item (no details) was found in the basket and that if the member needs to claim it because it was an accident to identify what it was so it can be returned. Fourth - give your home group/district time; a month or two, to get the word out to the membership so that if it was an accident the member can claim their “lost” item. Fifth - if it is not claimed, let the group conscience know the approximate value of the item and get support from a member to sell it to a collector or AA member who wants to buy it. Or give it to the Archives. Sixth - Deposit that cash as the contribution.

Q: How much sobriety should a group treasurer have? How long have you been a treasurer in AA?

A: Please read the AA Pamphlet “The AA Group Treasurer” F-96. “The position of group treasurer is one of the most responsible positions in any AA group. While there is no standard length of sobriety necessary….” It really depends on the person, their abilities, and accountability. I have been a treasurer in AA since my first service position in 1989. I started going to an early bird meeting around month 9 in Washington, DC. I got chosen because I was 1 of 3 people in the group who had a bank account we could use. The other 2 had rotated out already twice each. Every time we moved to a new duty station, AA members saw I was good with numbers so I got voluntold I would be treasurer. So, on an off between moves, over 37 years.

Q: How often should a group have a 7th Tradition meeting? Can we change the percentages to contribute down the triangle in the example in the Message so that it reflects who actually needs more money, like GSO?

A: Most groups have discussions/meetings about the 7th tradition in the 7th month. Districts and groups have hosted 7th Tradition Workshops. As business meetings go, it is suggested to discuss percentages contributed when we know there is a special need. As far as changing the example shown in the message and on the aageorgia.org site or at aa.org. This is just an example - not a suggestion. I learned that it is a treasurer's responsibility to find out where the needs actually are and present that to their group conscience. Right now, we know that GSO is low on contributions, GSSA is on target, Prepaid is just shy of where it needs to be. Is your district flush? Should you shift some of that to GSO or Prepaid? Every entity in AA needs to examine their contribution percentage structure, know where the needs are, and adjust their percentages accordingly by group conscience.

MFB

Area 16 Treasurer

AREA CHAIRPERSON ARTICLES

Grapevine: grapevine@aageorgia.org

PI/CPC: picpc@aageorgia.org

Our Friend Jack

Recently I attended a District's Service Breakfast, and it was said that Jack Alexander's March 1, 1941 piece in The Post has been the best Public Information piece in our history. Have you read it? You can find it on aa.org: The Jack Alexander Article About A.A. (P-12). At the time, our membership was just 200. Did you know that 918 inquiries came into our little office within just 12 days following that publication?

Jack Alexander didn't come to write a glowing piece about us. He came to investigate. This is what he later said about it: "All I knew of alcoholism at the time was that, like most other non-alcoholics, I had had my hand bitten and my nose punched on numerous occasions by alcoholic pals to whom I had extended a hand. I had an understandable skepticism about the whole business." Jack first met with 4 of us at his place where we told him our stories. Then he went to headquarters where he spoke with Bill. Still not convinced. He visited A.A.s in our homes, speaking with our families. Then he attended meetings at 24th Street where he met "the nibblers at the fringe of the movement still fragrant of liquor and needing a shave. The bearded, fume-breathing lads were A.A. skeptics, too, and now I had some company." Some things never change! From there he went to Akron, Cleveland, Chicago and St. Louis, his home town, where he encountered his own friends who had become A.A.s. What didn't seem possible was standing before him.

It isn't what we said that convinced Jack Alexander who we are, it was what he saw, what he heard in those many encounters, what he felt in the rooms. Don't forget that an Open meeting is an incredible PI opportunity.

Leslie C., Chair

Tori J., Co-Chair

Area 16 PI/CPC Committee

Corrections: corrections@aageorgia.org

Treatment/Accessibilities: treatment@aageorgia.org

Archives: archives@aageorgia.org

What's new in archives?

Nothing. Just kidding. We need your help. If you have experience doing formal interviews, please reach out to us. We have a list of long-timers and service-related interviews we need help with. Feel free to log in to the monthly zoom meeting on the first Tuesday of every month at 6pm. The zoom link is on the state calendar at AAgeorgia.org.

The Archives photo gallery is growing at the state office. Please plan a visit to check out the new donations made to the Archives and the office. We also need help this upcoming year as we will begin to scan, copy, and digitize the entire repository. We will be doing one office day monthly to begin this lengthy process. There will be a workshop to teach anyone who is interested in helping. Reach out by email or preferably with a phone call if you are interested in getting involved with the archives committee.

John J., Chair

Jerry F., Co-Chair

Area 16 Archives Committee

Communications: communications@aageorgia.org

Expanded Use of Technology

2026 has been a year of expanded technology use for Area 16.

Area 16 has now completed a year of fully participatory hybrid Assemblies. Remote attendees have participated in open discussions, made and voted on motions, and taken part in elections. Feedback from both in-person and remote attendees has been overwhelmingly positive.

Online attendance has remained steady at approximately 95–105 attendees, including 55–65 eligible voting members. Overall Assembly attendance has not changed much. More time and data may be needed to determine whether technology is increasing participation in A.A.'s Third Legacy of Service. However, it has provided another way for members to participate.

Spanish-language interpretation and translation options have also been expanded, helping make Area 16 service more accessible to Spanish-speaking members.

Communications Committee Workshops have been productive and well received this year and are posted on the Area 16 website so members can view them afterward.

Speaking of the website, 2027 will bring a significant project. The current website platform has reached end-of-life, and the vendor is no longer investing in its maintenance, development, or support. The full scope of the transition is not yet known, but it will be a major undertaking. Planning is already underway.

The Communications Committee looks forward to seeing everyone at the district 13 Cluster Forum and the DCM Planning Meeting in November.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Questions, comments, or concerns? Please email us at communications@aageorgia.org

Derek W., Chair

Lon P., CoChair

Area 16 Communications Committee

BIRTHDAY CONTRIBUTIONS APPRECIATION

Thank you to the members and groups who celebrate their AA birthdays by contributing to Area 16. Your generosity helps support our service work and carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

District 1 Zone

Cairo Group

Doug & Shron H – September 20, 2014

District 3 Zone A

Reunion Group

Sandy J – March 30, 1990

District 3 Zone D

First Things First SSI Group

Jane D – August 17, 2007

District 8

I Am Responsible Group

Ken P – September 4, 2006

District 10 Zone A

Primary Purpose Group

Amy B – July 11, 1999

District 16 Zone E

Silver Lining Group

Debbie P – September 13, 2003

NEW GROUPS IN THE AREA

Please join us in welcoming the following new groups to Area 16!

District 10 Zone D

Primary Purpose Mens Meeting Group

80 Newnan Station

80 Newnan Station Drive #A

Newnan GA 30265

Tuesday 6:00 P.M. Open Men's

District 12 Zone A

Back In Step Group

Eisenhower Army Medical Center

District 16 Zone E

The Lake Lanier Group

The Connection Forsyth

4950 Browns Bridge Rd

Cumming GA 30041

Sunday & Thursday 6:30 P.M. Step Study Big Book

District 16 Zone F

Oglethorpe Co AA Group

300 E Hospital Rd

Fort Gordon GA 30905

Sunday & Saturday 6:00 P.M. Open Discussion

Cherokee Corner Church

2092 Athens Rd

Arnoldsville GA 30619

Thursday 6:30 P.M. Open Discussion

District 16 Zone D

Plain Language Big Book Study Group

Across The Bridge Suite A

900 Cripple Creek Dr

Lawrenceville GA 30043

Saturday 7:00 P.M. Open Beginners Big Book

We are glad to have you as part of our Area 16 fellowship!

CALENDAR OF AREA EVENTS

Please mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

- DCM Planning Meeting — November 7, 2026 – Macon/GSSA – 1:00 p.m. till 3:00 p.m.
- District 13 Cluster Forum

Includes (13A, 13B, 13E, 13F, 13G, 13H, 13I, 13J, 13K, 13L)

- November 14, 2026 – Kennesaw – 9:30 a.m. till 2:00 p.m.

For additional information, registration details, or updates, please visit www.aageorgia.org.

SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Group Information: Please review your group's information and submit corrections as needed.
- Service Opportunities: Contact your DCM or an Area officer to learn how you can become involved.
- Area News: Visit www.aageorgia.org for current information, event announcements, and Area resources.

SELF-SUPPORT PLAN

In accordance with our 7th tradition, we must be self-supporting.
When deciding how funds above operating expenses should be allocated from your group and/or district, remember to take into account all of the entities providing services within your area.

We have outlined a **sample** support plan for geographic regions with and without a central office. Please note that this is a sample, not a recommendation. The percentages should be determined by the group or district through a group conscience.

No Central Office:
Georgia State Service Assembly (GSSA) – 50%
General Service Office (GSO) – 30%
Prepaid Convention – 10%
District/Zone – 10%

Central Office included:
Central Office – 35 %
Georgia State Service Assembly (GSSA) – 30%
General Service Office (GSO) – 20%
Prepaid Convention – 10%
District/Zone – 5 %

AREA 16 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

Meeting called to order/ Serenity Prayer: Liz W., Area Chairperson

DELEGATE'S REPORT

Mark Grindle
Area 16 Delegate, Panel 76

Updates and Information from Mark Grindle, Georgia Delegate

As your Delegate, I want to share several important updates and announcements regarding General Service, upcoming publications, and activities throughout the fellowship.

Georgia Message – Should We Form a Committee?

One question currently being considered is whether a committee should be formed to rethink the Georgia Message. This is an opportunity to consider how we can continue to make our state newsletter informative, useful, and meaningful to members throughout Georgia. Further discussion will help determine the best direction moving forward.

Proposed Agenda Items

There are currently **50 Proposed Agenda Items** that have been submitted to the Conference Committee. These items have been emailed to your District Committee Members (DCMs) and will also be posted on the Georgia website under the Delegates Reports section.

Please take the time to review these items and discuss them within your districts. Your participation and input are important as we prepare for the General Service Conference.

Everything AA App – New Release

We are excited to share that the first release of the Everything AA app under the ownership of A.A. World Services is now available.

Users are encouraged to update to Version 5.0, which includes important technical and infrastructure improvements designed to make the app more stable, reliable, and ready for future development.

The app remains free to download, with an optional subscription available for $1.99 per month or $19.99 per year. Subscription fees help support continued development and maintenance. Subscribers will receive bonus content; however, these subscriptions are not considered Seventh Tradition contributions.

The first release includes “Voices of A.A. Today,” excerpts from the 2025 International Convention commemorative book, *A Book of Fellowship – 90 Years of Sharing Love and Service*. Additional audio, video, publications, and archival resources are planned for subscribers in the coming months.

Over the next year, users can expect phased updates to the app's content and features as the team works to maintain a trusted resource consistent with A.A.'s Twelve Traditions and AAWS and GSO policies and practices.

The Everything AA app is available for both iOS and Android devices. For support, contact everythingaa@aa.org.

2026 General Service Conference Final Report

The 2026 General Service Conference Final Report is available in digital format on aa.org. Simply search for **2026 Final Conference Report**.

Printed copies are expected to be available for ordering in approximately six weeks. They will only be available through aa.org at an estimated cost of $5.00, plus shipping. Shipping costs have not yet been determined.

Members are encouraged to review the report and stay informed about the work and decisions of the General Service Conference.

Fifth Edition of Alcoholics Anonymous

The Fifth Edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous* is expected to be available in February 2027.

The book will have a nondescript cover with a dust jacket and is expected to cost approximately $20.00.

An important reminder: Please speak with our State Archivist about the significance of preserving the dust jacket. Allow plenty of time to understand its importance and the archival considerations involved.

An update regarding the Fifth Edition was sent to all DCMs on September 17. If you have not received this information, please check with your District Committee Member.

Tidbits from the Southeast Regional Forum

Here are a few additional updates and items of interest shared at the Southeast Regional Forum:

Grapevine: Grapevine subscriptions and books will increase by $2.00 beginning the first of the year.

GSO Staff Assignments: Publication F-15 provides information about staff assignments at the General Service Office.

Young People in A.A.: There is a new Young People's page available on aa.org.

A.A. Gang Sign: Yes, apparently there is an A.A. gang sign! Who knew?

New A.A. Service Manual: The new edition of the A.A. Service Manual will be available October 1.

Staying Connected Through Service

Thank you for your continued interest, participation, and commitment to Alcoholics Anonymous and our General Service structure. Staying informed and sharing information throughout our districts helps keep our fellowship connected and strengthens our ability to carry the A.A. message.

I appreciate your time, your service, and all that you do for A.A. in Georgia.

In Service,

Mark Grindle
Georgia Delegate
770-906-8081
delegate@aageorgia.org

Alternate Delegate's Report

The Alternate Delegate shared several upcoming events for the remainder of 2026, along with information about the 2027 Cluster Forum schedule and opportunities for continued service and involvement.

Upcoming 2026 Events

Several events remain on the Area calendar for 2026:

73rd Annual Prepaid Convention: October 16–18 at the Sonesta-Gwinnett Place in Duluth.

DCM Pre-Conference Meeting: November 7 at the GSSA office, lower level (in the back), located at 145 1st Street in Macon, Georgia. The meeting is scheduled from 1:00–3:00.

Northeast Cluster Forum: November 14, hosted by District 13K at the Red Rock Building, 545 Mars Hill Road, Kennesaw, GA 30152, from 9:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m. This will be the final Cluster Forum of 2026.

2029 Prepaid Conference Bids

Bids for the **2029 Prepaid Conference** will be heard at the January Assembly. Members were encouraged to review page 34 of the Georgia A.A. Service Manual for details and to contact the Alternate Delegate with any questions.

2027 Cluster Forum Schedule

The following Cluster Forums are planned for 2027:

Southeast: District 4 – March

East Central: District 12A – June

Northwest: District 10E – August

District 17: Catarcis – November

DCM Outreach Committee

The Alternate Delegate reminded members that the **DCM Outreach Committee** is available to help DCMs and districts.

Trusted Servants Hangout

Another Trusted Servants Hangout is scheduled for **Wednesday, October 7, at 6:00 p.m.** The discussion will focus on how trusted servants can assess how they are doing in their service roles.

Contact Information

The A.A. Service Manual describes the Area Alternate Delegate as a valuable assistant to the Delegate, who serves the Area.

The Alternate Delegate emphasized a commitment to serving the Area and encouraged members to reach out with questions or concerns.

Contact information:

Email: altdelegate@aageorgia.org

Phone: 478-414-8304

The report closed with thanks to the members for the opportunity to be of service.

TREASURER'S REPORT

September 27, 2026 Assembly
Mary Flynn B., Area 16 Treasurer

The September 27, 2026, Assembly included an overview of the financial condition of Area 16, Georgia. Treasurer Mary Flynn Boener presented the financial information prepared September 12, 2026, covering income, expenses, account balances, prepaid accounts, prudent reserves, and the proposed 2027 budget.

The report provides an important picture of how contributions and other income are supporting the work of Georgia Area 16 and how we can continue to plan responsibly for the future.

Financial Updates and Administrative Changes

Several administrative updates were shared during the report.

The online migration to QuickBooks has been completed, and both accounts are functioning. Additional data cleanup and final adjustments are still needed as the transition continues.

Another banking update involves Cadence Bank, which was taken over by Huntington Bank on June 15, 2026. All account logins are working, and access is available. Account information and balances are still being confirmed.

Additional expenses noted included $2,922.78 for end-of-year bonuses and $7,150 for the 2026 General Service Board Conference.

Printing and Mailing Costs

The printing and mailing report, covering January through August 31, 2026, shows a substantial decrease compared with the same period in 2025.

Printing expenses were $613.88, compared with $4,161.91 in 2025. Mailing expenses were $1,517.24, compared with $6,796.86 in 2025.

Combined printing and mailing expenses totaled $2,131.12, compared with $10,958.77 during the same period last year. The annual budget for these expenses is $3,290.

These figures reflect a significant reduction in printing and mailing costs so far this year.

Income: January Through August 2026

Total income for the first eight months of 2026 was **$216,382.95**, exceeding the budgeted amount of $200,978.80 by $15,404.15.

The income categories included:

Group and Individual Contributions: $149,803.38, which is $17,054.66 above budget.

Literature Sales: $62,622.38, which is $3,274.34 below budget.

Interest Income: $3,957.19, which is $1,623.83 above budget.

Compared with the same period in 2025, total income increased from $190,795.40 to $216,382.95.

Contributions continue to be an important part of maintaining the financial stability of Area 16 and supporting our shared service responsibilities.

Group Contribution Information

The contribution report provided additional information about group participation.

From January 1 through August 31, 2026, the reported contribution categories were:

Seventh Tradition contributions: $137,502.27.

Other contributions: $12,301.11.

Prepaid contributions: $44,190.23.

The report lists 807 total groups, including 25 corrections groups and 11 virtual groups. The number of groups listed as unknown was 265.

The contribution information showed 385 groups, or approximately 48%, represented in the Seventh Tradition category, while 260 groups, or 32%, were represented in the prepaid category.

The report also noted that GSO lists 506 active groups, 265 unknown groups, and 10 virtual groups, for a total of 781.

One important financial consideration is prepaid contributions. The average annual cost of prepaid contributions over the last three years was $67,427. This information helps establish the amount needed to maintain adequate prepaid funds.

Expenses: January Through August 2026

Total expenses through August 31, 2026, were **$196,003.67**, which was $4,942.25 below the budgeted amount of $200,945.92.

Expenses were divided into four main categories:

GSSA Office: $91,860.40.

Committees: $18,113.53.

Assembly: $25,742.78.

Literature: $60,286.96.

Compared with the same period in 2025, total expenses increased from $189,238.04 to $196,003.67.

Literature expenses were above the budgeted amount by $12,686.96. The report explained that the Office Committee voted to spend $10,000 on literature before an anticipated price increase.

This purchase was intended to help manage future literature costs.

Net Financial Position

When income and expenses are compared, Area 16 showed a positive financial position for the first eight months of 2026.

Total income was $216,382.95, while total expenses were $196,003.67.

This resulted in a **surplus of $20,379.28** through August 31, 2026.

For comparison, the budget had projected a surplus of only $32.88 for this period. The actual surplus was $20,346.40 above that projection.

The corresponding surplus for the same period in 2025 was $1,557.36.

This is encouraging news and reflects the importance of continued contributions and careful management of expenses.

GSSA Account Balances

The account balances as of September 6, 2026, showed total cash assets of **$273,675.47**.

The balances included:

Petty Cash: $300.00.

Grapevine Petty Cash: $150.00.

GSSA Operating Account: $28,987.93.

Money Market Account: $244,237.54.

Certificate of Deposit Account: $0.00.

In addition to these cash balances, the report listed $25,178.15 in literature inventory and $10,569.11 in Grapevine inventory.

These balances provide an overview of the funds and inventory available to support Area 16 operations.

Prepaid Account Balances

The prepaid account balances as of September 6, 2026, totaled **$190,850.39**.

The accounts included:

Prepaid 73 – Duluth: $3,795.54.

Prepaid 74 – Athens: $5,795.53.

Prepaid Operating Account: $181,259.32.

Certificate of Deposit Account (7-month CD): $0.00.

The treasurer emphasized the importance of maintaining adequate prepaid funds. The average annual prepaid expense over the last three years was $67,427.

The stated goal is to maintain approximately three years of prepaid expenses, including the current year. The report indicated that the prepaid balance represented approximately 2.8 years of coverage.

Maintaining this balance helps ensure that prepaid obligations can continue to be met.

Prudent Reserve

The prudent reserve is an important part of Area 16's financial planning. It provides protection in the event of an emergency or unexpected financial need.

As of August 31, 2026, the prudent reserve balance was **$244,237.54**.

Using 2025 operating expenses of $310,122.34, the report calculated average monthly operating expenses of approximately $25,843.53. Based on that calculation, the current reserve represents approximately **9.45 months of operating expenses**.

The treasurer also emphasized that the prudent reserve calculation includes all operating expenses, including literature expenses.

Maintaining an adequate reserve is an important responsibility as we work to ensure the continued financial stability of Area 16.

Proposed 2027 Budget

The proposed 2027 budget was another important part of the presentation.

The proposed budget projects total income of **$318,895**, compared with the 2026 budgeted income of $301,468.11.

Projected income includes:

Contributions: $215,550.

Literature Sales: $99,845.

Interest: $3,500.

This represents an increase in projected income of $17,426.89 over the 2026 budget.

The proposed 2027 expenses total **$318,804.33**, compared with the 2026 budget of $301,419.54.

The expense categories include:

GSSA Office: $154,732.53.

Committees: $49,683.

Assembly: $43,988.

Literature: $70,400.

The proposed budget projects a small surplus of $90.67 for 2027.

The Importance of Continued Contributions

One of the most important messages from the proposed budget discussion was the need for continued contributions.

The treasurer explained that the 2027 budget is based on actual financial activity from the current year. Groups are encouraged to continue doing what they have been doing in 2026 when it comes to supporting Area 16 through contributions.

Without continued contributions at the current level, Area 16 could find itself needing to draw money from the prudent reserve to meet operating expenses, as happened in the previous year.

Our Seventh Tradition contributions help support the services and activities that allow A.A. to carry its message throughout Georgia. Continued participation by groups and members helps maintain financial stability and protects the resources needed for future service.

Staying Informed and Involved

The treasurer closed by encouraging members to communicate with her about any questions, concerns, or suggestions regarding Area 16 finances.

Financial responsibility is a shared commitment. Understanding where our contributions go, how expenses are managed, and what resources are available helps us make informed decisions about the future of our Area.

Thank you to all the groups and members who continue to support Area 16 through their contributions and service.

In Service,

Mary Flynn Boener
Area 16 (Georgia) Treasurer
treasurer@aageorgia.org
386-562-2513
aageorgia.org

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Area 16 Secretary, Kirby M.

Assembly Attendance Report

The Secretary's Report provided an overview of attendance and representation at the Assembly. A total of **431 members** were in attendance, representing districts, groups, service positions, and members at large.

Attendance was reported as follows:

- DCMs: 35
- Alternate DCMs: 12
- District Secretaries/Treasurers: 4
- GSRs: 153
- Alternate GSRs: 41
- Group Secretaries/Treasurers: 17
- Grapevine Representatives: 5
- Treatment Representatives: 3
- Corrections Representatives: 8
- Communications Representatives: 3
- PI/CPC Representatives: 6
- Archives: 6

- Online Attendance:
    - GSR-72
    - Alt GSR-5
- Total Online Attendance: 101
- Members at Large: 40

Total Attendance: 431

Group Updates and Changes

Members were reminded that the folders distributed by their DCMs should include a spiral notebook containing the **2025 updated Area Directory**.

Districts and groups are encouraged to keep their information current by visiting aageorgia.org and submitting any updates or changes.

Ordering Literature

Literature may also be purchased through the Area website. Members can use the **"Buy Online"** tab located at the top right of the website's homepage.

Area Office Hours and Assistance

Members needing assistance may contact the Area office during the following hours:

Monday–Thursday: 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Friday: 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Members may also leave a message through the website. Someone will respond when the office is open.

District and Group Minutes

Members were reminded to email minutes to **districtminutes@aageorgia.org**.

Both **district minutes and group minutes** may be sent to this email address for archival purposes.

Thank you all so much for the opportunity to serve you all over the last three years. It has truly been the honor of my life.

In love and service,

Kirby M.

How the Assembly Operates

Presented by Area Chairperson, Liz W.

Old Business

Area 16 Secretary & Treasurer Elections

Standing Nominees for Area Secretary:

Thomas P., Sabrena S., & Garrett W.

Garrett W. elected as incoming Area 16 Secretary

Standing Nominees for Area Treasurer

Bruce W. & Kelly G.

Kelly G. elected as incoming Area 16 Treasurer

New Business

Date:9/11/2026

Name of Originator: Austin Harbin GSR

District/ Home Group: 13K / Focus on the Solution

Motion Seconded By:

District / Home Group:

Exact wording of motion to be made:

Motion: That the Georgia State Service Assembly endorse the Proposed Agenda Item titled "Consider Revising the General Service Conference Process for Committee Recommendations and Floor Actions," and forward this endorsement to the General Service Office for inclusion in the Conference process.

Summary of the Proposed Agenda Item: This Proposed Agenda Item requests that the General Service Conference adopt a process in which substantive new policy, structural, financial, governance, or literature matters introduced through committee recommendations not included on committee agenda as existing PAI or floor actions be referred to the following year's Conference as Proposed Agenda Items, unless a two-thirds vote determines the matter is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred.

The proposal emphasizes:

Protecting unity and informed group conscience.

Allowing adequate time for Fellowship-wide participation and study.

Ensuring significant decisions reflect broad consultation throughout A.A.'s service structure.

Limiting exceptions to urgent legal, financial, or operational matters affecting A.A.'s ability to carry the message.

Intent: To support a Conference process that balances efficiency with broad Fellowship participation, strengthens unity, and ensures that major decisions reflect an informed group conscience.

Submitted by: Doug Mefford Canton, GA Endorsed by Focus on the Solution Group – Group ID 000104722

Fecha: 9/11/2026
Nombre del proponente: Austin Harbin, RSG
Distrito / Grupo Base: 13K / Focus on the Solution
Moción secundada por:
Distrito / Grupo Base:

Redacción exacta de la moción que se presentará:

Moción: Que la Asamblea Estatal de Servicio de Georgia respalde el Punto Propuesto del Orden del Día titulado «Considerar la revisión del proceso de la Conferencia de Servicios Generales para las recomendaciones de los comités y las acciones de la plenaria», y que remita este respaldo a la Oficina de Servicios Generales para su inclusión en el proceso de la Conferencia.

Resumen del Punto Propuesto del Orden del Día:
Este Punto Propuesto del Orden del Día solicita que la Conferencia de Servicios Generales adopte un proceso mediante el cual los asuntos sustanciales nuevos relacionados con políticas, estructura, finanzas, gobernanza o literatura, que sean presentados mediante recomendaciones de los comités y que no estén incluidos en el orden del día del comité como un PPA existente ni como una acción de la plenaria, sean remitidos a la Conferencia del año siguiente como Puntos Propuestos del Orden del Día, a menos que una votación de dos tercios determine que el asunto es urgente y que razonablemente no puede ser aplazado.

La propuesta hace énfasis en:

- **Proteger la unidad y una conciencia de grupo informada.**
- **Permitir tiempo suficiente para la participación y el estudio de toda la Comunidad de A.A.**

- **Asegurar que las decisiones importantes reflejen una amplia consulta a través de toda la estructura de servicio de A.A.**
- **Limitar las excepciones a asuntos legales, financieros u operativos urgentes que afecten la capacidad de A.A. para llevar el mensaje.**

Propósito: Apoyar un proceso de la Conferencia que equilibre la eficiencia con

The motion is carried by majority vote.

General Sharing

Katie A., GSR Jaywalkers Group, 7A shared her experience in coming to Assembly for the first time and how undeniable the energy in the room was.

Veronica, member at large, Thanked the body for the support and love poured out on the hispanic community in alcoholics anonymous.

Billy, GSR Pembroke Group 5A- Motion to adjourn

David U., GSR, Houston Group 16 B- Seconded

The motion is carried by majority vote.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer in spanish first then in english.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kirby M.

CLUSTER FORUM

HUMILITY IN ACTION

Join us for the quarterly cluster forum, hosted by Zone 13K. This is a large learning opportunity that brings together neighboring AA groups throughout District for a day of shared experience, growth, and fellowship

14 NOVEMBER 2026

9 30 TO 2:00

545 MARS HILL RD
KENNESAW GA 30152
RED ROCK BUILDING

EVENT TOPICS & THEMES

1. **Restoration and Discovering Grace, Unity, and Fellowship.**
2. **Gossip vs Facts: Examining the Health of Our Own Communications**
3. **Finding Common Ground**

Matt Mantooth
Zone 13k DCM

678-918-6231

74TH ANNUAL GEORGIA PREPAID CONVENTION

DATES: October 29-31, 2027

LOCATION: The Classic Center
300 N Thomas St, Athens, GA 30601

AA

* **WORKSHOPS**
LEARN. GROW. GET INVOLVED.

* **GOLF TOURNAMENT**

* **MOTORCYCLE POKER RUN**

* **FOOTBALL WATCH PARTY**

* **GRAPEVINE PLAY**

* **MEDITATION SOUND BATH**

FEATURING SPEAKERS THAT *honor* THE PAST AND *embrace* THE FUTURE:

- **Karen R.** - Tampa, FL.
- **Tom U.** - Santa Fe, NM.
- **Juanita U.** - Santa Fe, NM.
- **Peter M.** - Boca Rotan, FL.
- **Ralph W.** - Los Angeles, CA.

REGISTER
for the Convention

VOLUNTEER
Get Involved

ORDER SPEAKER TAPES
Relive the Experience

VISIT AAGEORGIA.ORG/PREPAID FOR MORE INFO
VISIT THE WEBSITE FOR HOTEL RATES

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE TO AREA 16!

Please share this newsletter with your district members, GSRs, and home groups so everyone can stay informed and involved.

In service,

Area 16 Georgia AA

478.745.2588

www.aageorgia.org

Thank you for your service to Area 16!
www.aageorgia.org