

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

Confidential for members  
November/December 2021  
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## The Spirit of Service

By Debi K.

### Area 16 Delegate

As I rotate out as Area 16 Delegate, I reflect on how and why I got into service in the first place. When I first came into the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous, I was introduced to the practical aspects of service including making coffee (lots of pressure there!), cleaning ashtrays, opening the meeting room, leading discussions, and group service positions. These responsibilities kept me engaged, gave me a sense of connection, and helped me to feel valued. It was good for me to get out of my comfort zone of hiding in the background and relieved my fear of failure.

When I took on additional service commitments, my EGO did not want me to do these things. It told me I was incapable and provided me we plenty

of excuses as to why I shouldn't do it. However, with the support of a great sponsor and home group, I was encouraged and supported. I was told that I couldn't "break AA" and there were plenty of people who were more than willing to help. So, I persevered and put one foot in front of the other. I learned and grew along the way. I learned to step out of myself and do simple acts for others. This helped me to begin the process of taking my life back from my EGO and giving it to a Higher Power.

Service commitments and gestures are the first step toward change and healing our conscience. The more selfless we become, the more our self-esteem is restored and most of us become strong enough to take on those service commitments we used to avoid. We are amazed before we are halfway through!

I've heard people refer to our program as an education in the art of liv-

ing. From these simple service commitments, I learned to be more responsible out in the world. My confidence was restored, slowly but surely, and I felt able to face the risks and challenges I used to avoid. I finally learned that I did not have to face life alone; I had support and love from the God of my understanding and the members of Alcoholics Anonymous. I could also apply the skills I learned through service out in the real world.

In his leadership essay, Bill Wilson refers to the personal qualities of a good leader. These qualities of dedication, stability, and vision are present in so many of our members. We often

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

## A Fond Farewell

By Jim T.

### Area 16 Alternate Delegate

As I sit down to write this last article, I can't help but feel a little sad. Earlier this year, I saw my responsibilities at work double, and then in the late Spring, triple. Like many businesses, this was primarily due to staff shortages directly resulting from Covid. Of course, this is all AA's fault — because AA turned me into a dependable, conscientious, and responsible employee. And I am eternally grateful for that. In late July, given my time constraints, I felt that I could not adequately continue to serve Area 16 at this level, and made the extremely difficult decision to withdraw from the September elections. I know there were some folks that may have been disappointed with that decision, but probably none more than me. The last two years have been interesting, even challenging at times, but I have learned so much about the Fellowship that literally saved my life. Ultimately, I

knew that we had a wonderful group of people who were standing for Delegate and Alternate Delegate, and that made my decision a bit easier.

I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations to Tracy and Tom for their election to Delegate and Alternate Delegate, respectively. I know they will serve Area 16 extremely well and we couldn't ask for better trusted servants. One of the things that I have been most impressed with the Office Committee is that we have a vast amount of experience and willingness to help. I have the utmost faith that Area 16 will thrive under our new slate of Officers. Our past Area Officers are always willing to provide their experience as well. We are very fortunate in AA in Georgia to have access to this much guidance and assistance from those who have gone before us.

I was pleased to see the "Motion to Decline to Consider" pass with substantial unanimity at the September Assembly. Although I was uncertain that it would pass, I believe it will be a valuable tool for the body of the As-

sembly to use, when appropriate, as we move forward. Anytime the group conscience is empowered, there can't be a downside. Years of use at the General Service Conference have proved it to be both practical and spiritual. I trust it will do the same for us, here in Area 16.

Finally, I would like to extend my gratitude to all of you. Each one of you has been very kind, gracious, understanding, and supportive of me throughout my time in General Service. I could not have asked for a better experience and feel very fortunate for the opportunities in service I have been able to enjoy. I have no plans of going away, just maybe providing service at the local level for a while. Our paths will surely cross again. I wish you all peace.

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

### God Will Provide

**By Liz W.**

**Area 16 Secretary**

What a great time to be sober! The holidays are just around the corner, and it's time to start making plans for 2022. I remember my first sober holiday season. I cooked my first-ever turkey for Thanksgiving. I left the bags inside with the neck and guts, and I learned what not to do. Everything is a learning experience. I either learn what I should do, or I learn what I should NOT do, by being open to every learning experience.

I got married for the fourth time on December 20<sup>th</sup> of 1997. I was sober exactly nine months that day. I chaired my first meeting (there was a nine-month requirement in my group), I picked up my nine-month chip, and I got married at an AA meeting all on the same day. My new mother-in-law arrived the next day for my first sober Christmas. Then I had to cook for her. Somehow, I managed to stay sober through all of that. I look back on those days now, and I wonder how I ever made it.

It has been my experience that I have never needed anything since the day I walked into the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous. Ever since the first day I started doing what I honestly thought was the next right thing, God has taken care of all my needs. I have even been blessed to have received many of my wants. The journey continues for as long as I choose to put one foot in front of the other on this beautiful path of recovery.

Holidays are not quite as eventful as they were that first year. As time has passed, I have had many opportunities to spend time with family and host gatherings during the holidays. We have started new traditions of Fellowship on Thanksgiving, and I even learned how to cook a turkey with proper stuffing.

It is my sincerest hope that you all have a fabulous season of warmth and joy and may all of you newcomers leave the neck inside the turkey on Thanksgiving. Learn to laugh at yourself because we can never learn humility early enough.

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

### Financial Goals Met

**By Kelly G.**

**Area 16 Treasurer**

Thank you for being present at our fifth virtual Assembly. It's always a pleasure to see all of you. I was pleased to find that we had more attendance during our Treasurer/Secretary Workshop. This is my favorite meeting because I get one-on-one time with people from all Districts and groups.

We are two years removed from the date our Area first reached a 12-month prudent reserve. Our current prudent reserve sits at \$183,643.30, which is 12.43 months of operating expenses.

Our finances, as of August 2021, are strong. Our total income is \$166,313.31 (\$175,677.65 budgeted). We are under our income numbers due to a drop in literature sales. Total expenses were \$127,818.21 (\$174,985.61 budgeted). GSSA expenses are down due to budgeted costs for in-person events including conferences, Assembly, etc., that are not

able to be held safely currently. Overall, this keeps GSSA over budget by \$38,495.10 as of August 31, 2021.

This is an important couple of months, as I will be meeting with all DCMs virtually on November 6<sup>th</sup> to field questions and discuss the new GSSA budget for 2022. I initially reviewed the budget with DCMs at the September DCM meeting. DCMs will now bring back notes to their Districts to discuss with GSRs. GSRs will discuss with the groups and bring information and questions back to the DCMs. I will meet with the DCMs to work through the budget. If you have questions between now and that meeting, never hesitate to reach out to me directly: [treasurer@aageorgia.org](mailto:treasurer@aageorgia.org). Thank you to the Budget and Finance Committee (Jim T., Alternate Delegate, Tamara, Office Manager, Christy G., Past Treasurer, Cheryl F., DCM 3D, Bruce W., DCM 7B) for helping put together a balanced budget.

Thank you all for participating in service.

## 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*.

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 areas 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.

### Group Conscience Decision:

State Office, Macon:	_____ %
District/Zone:	_____ %
Central Office:	_____ %
Pre-Paid Convention:	_____ %
GSO:	_____ %
Total:	100 %

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 La Viña / [grapevine@aageorgia.org](mailto:grapevine@aageorgia.org)

### Prayer & Meditation

**Mark J., Chair**

**Mitch M., Co-Chair**

**Area 16 Grapevine / La Viña Committee**

The new book *Prayer & Meditation* features powerful stories by members of Alcoholics Anonymous about the many ways they pray and meditate in their daily lives. The stories in this book show how members begin to pray and meditate and then branch out to develop very personal, and often creative, ways to practice. Chapters include daily routines, traditional religious practices, activities and exercise, personal techniques, the Serenity Prayer, and connecting with nature and the universe. All stories were previously published in Grapevine, the International Journal of AA. Great for people in recovery who want to explore prayer and meditation.

The price is \$11.50 each; five or more copies cost \$10.50 each.

You can order the new book online at [aageorgia.org](http://aageorgia.org) or [aagrapevine.org](http://aagrapevine.org)

### Service Opportunity

Grapevine Representatives are the link between AA Grapevine and the groups. It's a

fun way to get involved, and it's easy to get started.

### What does a Grapevine Rep do?

- Announce the latest issue at your meeting.
- Talk about the magazine's content — the stories make great topics for discussion.
- Encourage your group's members to participate by sending in stories, art or jokes.
- Spread the word about Grapevine's new services and products.

### How do I get started?

- Offer to be of service — let your home group know that you are interested.
- Register with us online.
- You will receive a complete information kit from the Grapevine office.

Serving as a Grapevine Representative is a great way to carry the message of AA and to stay sober!

Questions? Contact us at [outreachcoord@aagrapevine.org](mailto:outreachcoord@aagrapevine.org)

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

### Please Continue Reaching Out

**By Karen S., Chair**

**Pearse M., Co-Chair**

**Area 16 Treatment /  
Accessibilities Committee**

Thanks to all who attended our workshop at the September Assembly. We would like to invite all of you to join us at the virtual North American Treatment Forum, which will be Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m. (Zoom ID: 720 323 0527 PW: 417)

Please continue reaching out to treatment facilities. Make contact and let's build those relationships. True recovery begins once treatment is finished. About one-third of our Fellowship comes to us through treatment centers. Also, a reminder when working with treatment facilities that our traditions are extremely important. It must never be forgotten that the sole purpose of Alcoholics Anonymous is to sober up drunks. If you do not have a treatment workbook, it can be a great tool in guiding a person through working with different facilities. We also have pamphlets and other literature available. Feel free to contact me through [aageorgia.org](http://aageorgia.org) or at 470-525-1312. Together we can make a difference.

Am I doing my part to make sure the AA message is available to all? Accessibility applies to all who have difficulty participating in AA. There are times when a person's disability may be invisible to us. It is important to take time and look around the room and see who may need help or who is missing. There are many resources available, including the Accessibilities workbook, pamphlets, and our committee.

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

### Maintaining Our Contacts with Professionals

**By Micah G., Chair**

**William B., Co-Chair**

**Area 16 Public Information/  
Cooperation With the Professional  
Community Committee**

Another two-year rotation is near an end. From February 2020 to the present date most of our in-person meetings were canceled due to the pandemic. We would like to thank all Group Representatives and District Chairs for their service during this unprecedented time.

If you are rotating out and participated in virtual Non-AA Talks at DUI schools, sent or delivered pamphlets to hospital emergency room staff and media contacts, and sent letters to senior living facilities, please pass all information and all contacts along to those who will be stepping up to take your position. This information can also be used to assist the District Chair in forming a PI/CPC Committee, and it is most important in maintaining established contacts. Micah, our PI/CPC chair, will be rotating out. We would like to thank him for his service in imple-

menting our PI/CPC Database and Monthly Coffee Talks; and his work with the Armed Forces Subcommittee, which will continue to have a positive impact in Area 16.

We want to encourage all to make regular visits to [aageorgia.org](http://aageorgia.org) for how to do PI/CPC work (the workbook is posted). You can also get updates on AA literature and videos. We also want to let those new to PI/CPC work know that they can receive the flyer "AA at a Glance" at no cost at our state office in Macon and through GSO in New York via [aa.org](http://aa.org)

### Delegate Continued from Page 1

don't see these qualities in ourselves, but someone will recognize them in us and encourage us.

I've had the opportunity to get to know so many of you over these last few years. (I would have liked to get to know more of you, but Covid had other ideas.) Nevertheless, I have seen so many potential leaders of tomorrow and am encouraged for the future of our Fellowship. I hope you will be inspired to continue your journey in service to Area 16. It has been an amazing experience for me. Thank you for providing me the opportunity and trusting me to serve Area 16.



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

### **Archiving a Unique Time** **By Mike Shipp, Chair** **Mark Grindle, Co-Chair** **Area 16 Archives Committee**

As 2021 ends, it is time for rotation in the Archives Committee. First, I would like to thank the Area 16 membership for allowing me to serve for the past four years. It has been the highlight of this new life AA has given me.

While the pandemic slowed us down a bit, we were still able to make some progress. Our inventory and redecoration of our museum has been completed. Stop by and check it out. Also, our effort to digitize all our reel-to-reel speaker tapes has progressed well. Thanks to Damen, we can now do some of this work remotely without having to make a special trip to Macon. If this is your kind of thing and you want to help, contact Mark at [archives@aageorgia.org](mailto:archives@aageorgia.org).

We are excited to continue our studies of the founders and important people mentioned in the Big Book. So far, we have great presentations on the lives of Bill W., Dr. Bob, and Dr. Silkworth available on our website ([aageorgia.org](http://aageorgia.org)) under the archives tab.

Mark and Drew have been working on the next edition, "An Evening with Sister Ignatia in Pictures". This will happen live on November 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. on our website. See the enclosed flyer for more information.

### **Things We Cannot Change**

**District 5 Zone C**  
District 5 Zone C DCM  
After Five Group  
Kenny G  
Passed: Aug 16, 2021

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

### **Trusting the Process** **By Chuck H., Chair** **Janie C., Co-chair** **Area 16 Communications Committee**

*"There is a solution. Almost none of us liked the self-searching, the leveling of our pride, the confession of shortcomings which the process requires for its successful consummation."* — Alcoholics Anonymous page 25

When my alarm goes off in the morning, I am not someone who bounds out of bed. My physical awakening, like my spiritual awakening, involves a process.

We have been writing about the process of communication for the past year. This process begins with a sender, who encodes a message for delivery, and then the message is transmitted to a receiver who must

decode it. Like many of us, as a recovering alcoholic I was looking for recovery as an event and not a process. Getting recovery has taken time and effort, but it has not been nearly as difficult as the process of getting ready to receive it.

Our committee is looking for volunteers who are willing to get involved in this process of carrying the message of recovery to others. We need a trainer for the tools in G Suite, we need programmers to help with the website, we need former GSRs and DCMs to serve on the Web Committee. As we look forward to rotating service positions, we also need a webmaster and co-webmaster. Please contact us if you can help. Don't be intimidated by the fabulous jobs that our current volunteers are doing. The main qualification for all these service jobs is willingness.

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

### **Reopening Progress Report**

#### **By David J., Chair** **Dawn U., Co-Chair** **Area 16 Corrections Committee**

Since the last Georgia Message, our state correctional facilities have been working to open to AA meetings. Speaking to our AA members, six (6) state and local facilities are allowing AA meetings inside their facilities.

At this time, Georgia has 93 state facilities with AA volunteers working with 26 of these facilities. We have meetings in 28% of the state facilities. Georgia has 144 local facilities, and we have AA volunteers working with 28 of these facilities. We have meetings in 20% of our local facilities.

As facilities open, we will need local AA volunteers to take the message to the thousands of inmates who have not had an AA meeting in 18 months. One recent shock is that a prison has stated that they are going to only support virtual NA meetings. Inmates would not have a meeting available to them, even though AA members are available. We are working on this situation.

If you are unsure about where you might be able to volunteer, contact us at [corrections@aageorgia.org](mailto:corrections@aageorgia.org). If you know where you want to volunteer:

1. To begin the Georgia badge process, visit <http://www.gdc.ga.gov/content/volunteer-services-apply>.
2. To begin your local badge process, contact your local Sheriff.

In other news, we are continuing to build our Corrections email newsletter. If you would like to be added to that mailing list, please contact us at [corrections@aageorgia.org](mailto:corrections@aageorgia.org).

# THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA

## 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. Please check with the organizers closer to the date regarding cancellations or changes.*

68th Georgia Pre-Paid Convention	Virtual	October 15-17
DCM Planning Meeting	Virtual	November 6 10 am – Noon
5th Annual National Corrections Conference	New Orleans	November 12-14
Southern States Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly	Virtual	November 19-21
Middle Georgia Soberfest	Byron	November 19-21
District 17 Cluster Forum	Atlanta	November 14
Includes (All of District 17)		

### ASSEMBLY RESERVATIONS

**NEED A ROOM AT THE HAMPTON INN & SUITES OF DUBLIN FOR ASSEMBLY?  
CALL (478) 246-6055, PLEASE REMEMBER TO TELL THEM THAT YOU ARE WITH THE  
(GSSA Organization) GEORGIA STATE SERVICE ASSEMBLY, TO GET THE GROUP RATE.  
PLEASE REMEMBER THE CUT OFF DATE IS FOUR WEEKS PRIOR BUT UP TO ONE WEEK  
IF ROOMS ARE STILL AVAILABLE. ROOM RESERVATION COMES WITH FREE WI-FI &  
FREE BREAKFAST.**

**The Message article deadline for January and February publication is December 1st.**

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

**Please mail to: G.S.S.A., P. O. Box 7325, Macon, Ga. 31209**

## New Groups

### **District 2 Zone A**

Lake Park Group  
Lake Park United Methodist Church  
412 W Cotton Ave  
Lake Park GA 31636  
Meets Tuesday 6:00 p.m.  
Open Discussion

### **District 7 Zone A**

Porter Station Group  
5797 Houston Rd Suit B  
Macon GA 31216  
Meets Monday at 8:00 p.m. &  
Saturday at 10:00 a.m. Open

### **District 7 Zone B**

Renacimiento Group  
Sacred Heart Catholic Church  
300 South Davis  
Houston GA 31088  
Meets Thursday 7:00 p.m.  
Open Spanish Big Book

### **District 13 Zone E**

The Fireflies Group  
Virginia Highland Church  
743 Virginia Ave NE  
Atlanta GA 30306  
Meets Sunday, Monday, Wednesday &  
Friday 10:00 p.m. Open LGBTQ

### **District 13 Zone F**

Big Book Study Group  
Zoom – Atlanta 30354  
Meets Monday – Saturday 12:30 p.m.  
Open Big Book

Chatt Hills Attitude Adjustment Group  
Sardis Baptist Church  
8400 Sardis Church  
Palmetto GA 30268  
Tuesday 7:00 p.m.  
Open Reflections

### **District 16 Zone A**

Peanut Pushers Group  
Spice 55 Restaurant  
705 Burken Strasse  
Helen GA 30545  
Meets Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

### **Step 10**

Continued to take  
personal inventory  
and when we were  
wrong promptly  
admitted it.

# THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA

## Georgia State Service Assembly

### Virtual Business Meeting Minutes

Sunday, September 19, 2021

#### Pending Approval at the January 2022 Business Meeting

##### CALL TO ORDER/SERENITY PRAYER

Rick M., Area 16 Chairperson

Delegate's Sharing: Debi K.

Good morning, my name is Debi Keane, and I am an alcoholic. It has been an honor to serve as your Panel 70 Delegate for Area 16. It has been an interesting time to serve as an Area Delegate. Who could have imagined a global pandemic that would persist throughout my term? My experience has been unique, and I have been committed to serving Area 16 to the best of my ability. Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to be of service!

I'd like to share a quote from Bill W.: "If the light is to be carried to the newcomer, he has to be brought within reach of it. This is our business here. It is the business of every intergroup association, every group committee. And we who man these special enterprises are commonly called trusted servants, and this implies leadership of the highest order ... (Our Great Responsibility, page 162) It is an honor and a responsibility to serve the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Service has brought a lot of joy into my life and enhanced my program of recovery. Area 16 is continually in need of people interested in finding the joy of service. I hope you will consider these opportunities as they arise.

For those of you who were not here in May 2019, I want to provide an update on an activity we did with all members in attendance at our May Assembly. In response to an audit that was conducted at the request of our General Service Board, we wanted to get input from our members on how they saw the recommendations that were reported by the audit. The audit was regarding how well we communicate: between our boards, within the Fellowship, with professionals in our community, and with those who still suffer.

You provided input that we put into action steps. The Action Plan committee reported at the May 2020 Assembly. I am happy to report that most of these action steps have been completed.

The Web committee, under the guidance of the Communications Committee, is beginning the work of website redesign. They included cost estimates in the 2021 budget.

We have transitioned from the 1:1 email system to G Suite. This makes it easier for DCMs to access emails — even on their phones. Email is our main mode of communication and is vital to the continued unity of the Fellowship.

Our committee chairs, including PICPC/Treatment/Corrections/Archives/Grapevine have been seeking input from those who serve as local committee reps to update their email databases. The purpose of these email databases is to be able to communicate efficiently and share important information. They have also been developing databases to include professionals who support our outreach.

We have now had three complete sessions of the DCM workshop, which have been well received. The DCM outreach program has provided support and mentoring to new DCMs, and we look forward to supporting new DCMs as they rotate in and out and continue in their service to their Districts and Zones within Area 16.

The pandemic has provided us with the opportunity to utilize video conferencing. It's interesting to note that, at the time the action plan was developed, we had no idea we would not be able to meet face-to-face. We have been forced into using virtual platforms and have taken full advantage of this media. The Office Committee has held frequent Office Committee meetings on Zoom since the pandemic

began. We also hosted DCM meetings, Committee Chair meetings, Budget and Finance Committee meetings, and Area Assembly using the video-conferencing platform. This saves time and travel costs for all who participate but still allows us to keep the lines of communication open. We have had to adjust along the way to continue the business of AA and the service to our members. AA always finds a way to let the message carry on whether face-to-face, through virtual platforms, or via telephone. The work of Alcoholics Anonymous did not stop even when the world was forced into quarantine.

We have completed most of the action steps outlined under Goal 1 to model inclusivity. We are grateful to our DCMs who have worked tirelessly to support new DCMs in their clusters. We did see an increase in participation among Districts that did not participate previously. Our Treatment/Accessibilities Committee is in the process of outlining their special need outreach program.

Our committee chairs and co-chairs have been busy working behind the scenes to establish and maintain contact with professionals in our areas. Each committee has a contact database. If you are a new representative for your District/Zone, please contact the committee to have your contact information entered into the database.

We will continue to work on ways to communicate more effectively with our members. Our DCMs are vital to this process. We communicate regularly through our Area email. If you are unsure how to access your email account, please check with our Area Secretary or our Office Manager.

Understanding and practicing our Twelve Traditions are extremely important to AA Unity. We include these as topics in our DCM 101 and GSR 101 workshops and throughout this Assembly. If you have any suggestions on other ways to address our traditions, please feel free to contact me.

Our finances are healthy mainly because we have not been spending any money, and we were prudent about expenses prior to Covid. We continue to look for ways to serve the Fellowship using media options. Look for information in the future as we consider unique ways to reach those of us who are still suffering.

Area 16 has not stopped due to the pandemic; we have found new ways to continue to serve. We have hosted a variety of online service sharing sessions and opportunities to participate since the beginning of the pandemic. I understand some of you are hesitant to access meetings on virtual platforms and you would love to see your fellow members in person, but these have been available and provide an opportunity to learn and grow. We have had:

- 2 DCM Pre-Conference Meetings
- 1 Virtual Area Business Meeting
- 4 Virtual Area Assemblies
- 3 Virtual Archives Workshops
- 2 Virtual PI/CPC Workshops and Monthly Sharing Sessions
- 2 Virtual Grapevine/La Vina Workshops and Monthly GV/La Vina Meetings
- 1 Virtual Treatment/Accessibilities Workshop
- 1 Virtual Cluster Forum
- 1 Face-to-Face Cluster Forum
- 3 DCM Virtual Meetings (in addition to Assembly)
- 1 Area Committee Meeting (in addition to Assembly)

# THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA

Monthly Coffee and Conversation with Delegate since October 2020

And we continue to grow! When I started as Delegate in January 2020, I had to turn in an Area Summary for the General Service Conference. At that time, we had 7,402 registered AA Groups. As of Friday, we have 778 and we continue to register new groups — 14 in the last month. This is very exciting! I am grateful to hear of new groups in different areas opening up to serve those suffering in their areas.

## **What's Happening at our General Service Office in New York?**

The Publishing department has announced three pamphlets approved at Conference that will be available soon (*Hispanic Women in AA*, *Experience Has Taught Us: Intro to the 12 Traditions*, and *Faith Leaders Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous*). The book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* is now available in multiple formats — soft and hard cover, large print, and audiobooks.

The print version of the Final Conference Report and the newly revised AA Service Manual will be available in November. There have been some delays due to a slowdown in printing and distribution due to the pandemic. However, we have posted a PDF version of the Final Conference Report on [aageorgia.org](http://aageorgia.org).  
(Service>Reports>Delegate Reports>2021 GSC)

Our GSO continues to hold Regional Forums around the country through virtual platforms. On October 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, the Southwest Regional Forum will take place. You can register at [aa.org](http://aa.org). There is no charge for registration. It is great to be able to experience these forums and learn about AA in other areas throughout the country.

The final Regional Forum for 2021 will be held November 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> in the East Central Region. You can check on [aa.org](http://aa.org) for registration information as it becomes available.

The Conference Agenda Committee recommended the following for 2022 General Service Conference Theme:  
72<sup>nd</sup> GSC: AA Comes of Age 2.0: Unified in Love and Service

## **Presentations:**

How Do AAs Go to Any Length to Recover, Unify, and Serve?  
Going Beyond Fear  
How to Reach Anyone, Anywhere

**Workshop topic:** The Warranties – Our Promise to Our Fellowship and the World  
We will vote on approving these for our Prepaid Conference and Cluster Forum theme later this morning.

Since the close of the 71<sup>st</sup> General Service Conference, your General Service Board members have been hard at work. The 71<sup>st</sup> General Service Conference generated 49 Advisory Actions that will begin to be addressed by our trustees. Members of the General Service Board have met multiple times since Conference. The Conference Charter outlines the responsibilities of the GSB: "The GSB is the chief service arm of the Conference and is essentially custodial in its character." As such, the GSB begins to act on the Advisory Actions passed at Conference.

Although we have known for a long time that Alcoholics Anonymous works, we have now scientifically supported research. An outpouring of research regarding successful methods to treat alcoholism led to a systematic review and meta-analysis of 27 clinical studies comprising 150 scientists, 67 institutions and almost 11,000 people, which was conducted by Humphries and Kelly's under the auspices of the Cochrane Library of systematic reviews, the recognized gold standard in scientific rigor for medical research. The result? The first extensively researched evidence that AA works as well or better than other scientific treatments for alcoholism. The best part is that we do it "for fun and for free".

Our GV asked the study's co-authors, Dr. John Kelly of Harvard University and Dr. Keith Humphreys of Stanford University, experts in the field of addiction research, to speak with Grapevine about

their findings. The article is published in the June 2021 issue of the Grapevine.

There is an additional article in the Fall 2021 Edition of Box 4-5-9. It may be helpful to share this information with members of the professional community.

Article Citation: Kelly, J.F., Humphreys, K., and Ferri, M. (2020). [Alcoholics Anonymous and other 12-step programs for alcohol use disorder](#). Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, (3), Art. No.: CD012880.

Corrections Correspondence Service: The new CCS Matching Application, set to launch in September 2021, will automatically match insiders and outsiders by gender, language, miles (not region) and country. The application will enable personalized welcome letters to be sent to all participants with information of their match along with instructions on how the system works. In addition, the system will give the ability to pull reports on the total number of active and inactive participants, participants matched, people waiting to be matched, and any missing information from inmate and participant records. The Corrections desk will receive an alert when there is no available match for an insider. This allows the staff member to immediately reach out to a Bridging the Gap committee chair for assistance.

Many of you are interested in the financial health of our General Service Board. Due to your generosity and an increase in literature sales our total operating expenses for the period ending June 30, 2021 were \$7,611,401, which is 53% of the budget amount of \$14,479,506 and \$47,491 more than last year. Payroll and benefits year to date are \$4,535,220, which is 49% of the budget amount of \$9,225,438 and \$83,668 less than last year. Professional fees are \$1,080,096 year to date, which is 44% of the budgeted amount and \$297 less than last year. Total operating expenses are more than budget because the NYS unemployment insurance tax rate increased. Also, depreciation expense was budgeted as a non-operating expense but is being charged as operating expense in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). Contributions are averaging \$829,386 per month, which is higher than the budgeted amount. Gross literature sales are more than last year, averaging \$955,950 per month (before expenses). Operating expenses are \$7,611,401, which is 53% of total budget at mid-year and over the budgeted amount. The reserve fund is currently at \$12,537,739 or 8.41 months of operating expenses.

We also must consider the fact that these figures are based on the Budget Reforecast that was done in July 2021 where considerable cuts were made. We have been operating with huge expense cuts made by the General Service Office.

The Prudent Reserve has not yet recovered from the \$4 million drawdown during 2021. The GSB would like to see a 12-month prudent reserve.

The Literature Desk is following up with GSO Publishing about the nine Advisory Actions and nine Committee Considerations that are pertinent to the department and stem from the Conference Committee on Literature. These follow-ups have coincided with preparation of draft agendas and background materials for the upcoming meetings of the AAWS Publishing and trustees' Literature Committees.

The trustees are monitoring comments that are submitted to AAWS regarding recommended literature changes, specifically the Twelve and Twelve. We will see if there are any proposed Agenda Items regarding these changes. Our guest this morning, Tom H., SE Regional Trustee will provide additional information on the process for the fifth edition of the Big Book and the revi-

# THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA

sions to the Twelve and Twelve.

The trustees are working on updating/developing several pamphlets including *Bridging the Gap*, *AA For the Older Alcoholic*, *The AA Group Treasurer*, *Twelve Steps Illustrated*, *Twelve Concepts Illustrated*, *Twelve Traditions Illustrated*, *AA's Three Legacies*, *AA for the Black/African American*, and *AA for the Native North American*. These are in various stages of the approval process.

We have some special Literature "deals" available: *Dynamic Duo* — Buy the Big Book, hard cover and get \$1 off Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.

*AA in Your Pocket*: Focuses on portable additions — Buy any pocket edition and get \$1 off each.

Both offers expire September 30, 2021

Our book, Alcoholics Anonymous, is now available in 73 languages, with 27 languages pending and 19 new translations in progress, along with eight revisions/retranslations. Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions is available in 52 languages, with three translations pending. Daily Reflections is available in 38 languages, with two translations pending. Living Sober is available in 37 languages, with five translations pending. Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age is available in 19 languages, with two translations pending. For the period January-June 2021, the total number of translation reviews completed by our independent translation-evaluation services stands at 20 reviews across nine languages. India and Turkey had multiple projects move forward. As of June 30, 2021, items of AA literature are available in 110 approved languages.

Since the General Service Conference, our GV Staff has hit the ground running. In response to the Advisory Action requesting that "The AA Grapevine Board implement an Instagram account and that a report be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña," our Instagram accounts for both Grapevine and La Viña launched on July 7<sup>th</sup>, and each continues to grow in engagement and content. Our Grapevine account is closing in on 3,826 followers and La Viña followers jumped 20% following the recent 25<sup>th</sup> La Viña Anniversary Celebration in Arizona. Currently showing 431 followers, I get the Grapevine Daily Quote on my Instagram feed each morning.

Initial demos for a podcast have been completed and the board approved a plan to make a three-month pilot of 12 episodes, with the possibility of extending for a full year. Current plans include weekly 30-minute episodes with a variety of small segments per episode.

You might recall, when our area participated in the Your Voice Matters activity, two of the recommendations included an increased social media presence and developing podcasts.

Finally, our members have been contacting GV and AAWS with their thoughts and feelings on the changes to the AA Preamble. The deadline for submission of proposed agenda items was September 15<sup>th</sup>. Once proposed agenda items are posted, we will know if these changes will be addressed by the 72<sup>nd</sup> GSC. We will receive Agenda Items after the January Board weekend and post them on aa-georgia.org. Background material is received around Valentine's Day and is also posted.

The Equitable Distribution of Workload Process, as detailed in the Report from the 2020 trustees' General Service Conference Committee, is to be implemented for the 72nd General Service Conference on a three-year trial basis, with a progress report to be brought to the Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions after each year of the trial. We will see how this looks when we receive our Conference Materials in February 2022.

A subcommittee will be appointed annually to analyze the process and report to the trustees to review at the Winter Board weekend.

The pandemic brought about the addition of virtual groups. Many of these groups are having excellent participation and would like to

remain in the virtual platform but still want to participate in the local service structure. The U.S./Canada General Service Structure recognizes online groups and encourages their participation, listing those groups that ask to be listed within the group's preferred District and Area, with the default option being the location of the group's primary contact. This supersedes the 1997 Advisory Action that designated online groups as "International Correspondence Meetings." The General Service Board recommended the formation of a committee to explore future possibilities for the participation of online groups in the U.S./Canada General Service structure.

The Group Services desk has received a high volume of communication regarding the 2021 Advisory Action pertaining to online groups. There are many concerns with the practicality of how listing will work both at the office and locally with registrars. Group Services is part of the GSO working group recently formed to help implement the Advisory Action. Group services meets with OIAA monthly. Most of the established groups in OIAA that participate in the joint meeting prefer a "virtual area" or "virtual district" and feel strained by the current Advisory Action. They also feel like a virtual DCM and or delegate would understand them as some have never been to an in-person meeting, and this is not something they started because of a pandemic. More will be revealed...

The PSA previously titled "Doors" has been rereleased with the new title "Opening Doors to a Life Without Drinking". The new title supports our efforts for search engine optimization and ease for potential members in finding information on AA. Two new PSAs, "Party" and "Walls", have been approved by the 71<sup>st</sup> GSC and we are waiting for their release. Please check out the excellent PSAs available on the home page of aa.org. They are excellent resources to share with those who still suffer and with the professional community.

Audio interviews with members serving in the military are being finalized and will be available for distribution soon. They cannot come soon enough. A recent review of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's 2013-2017 studies on drinking within industries, published by the Delphi Behavioral Health Group, found that active-duty military members spend more days a year consuming alcohol than people in any other industry. Military personnel reported drinking 130 days out of the year and imbibing four to five drinks a day in one sitting at least 41 days a year, also more than any other profession.<sup>1\*</sup> "Alcohol is always a problem in the military," says Tiffany G., Chair of Armed Forces Subcommittee in Area 8. "It is culturally so different. You're expected to drink, and to drink a lot."

George W. is an appointed committee member on the trustees' CPC committee. He served 24 years in the Army and has 22 years of sobriety. Not every area is going to benefit from having an armed services committee. There's no one-size-fits-all solution. But those areas that have a high concentration of armed forces — such as Norfolk, Virginia; Washington, D.C.; and Fort Benning, Georgia — might truly gain from the structure used in Area 8.

Our Area 16 PI/CPC Subcommittee on Armed Forces has been in contact with our fellow members out in Area 8 to learn from them and apply here in Area 16. Thank you for your service in moving forward with this outreach to our military personnel.

There is an excellent article in the Fall 2021 Edition of Box 4-5-9 spotlighting Class A trustee Sister Judith Ann Karam. Sister Judith has a long history with Alcoholics Anonymous dating back to her teenage years working with Rosary Hall Sanitarium. She also had the opportunity to observe the work of Sister Mary Ignatia. Alcoholics Anonymous is blessed to have this wonderful and humble servant serve our fellowship as a Class A trustee. I encourage you to read the article, entitled "A Remarkable Mission".

Our next International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous will be here before you know it. Vancouver, BC, Canada, will wel-



# THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA

come 48,000 people from around the world for the 2025 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous. This will be the single largest meeting ever held in the city with a footprint spanning both the Vancouver Convention Centre and BC Place Stadium. The International Convention consultant is already in the planning stages for the convention. There have been many changes to the hospitality industry because of the Covid pandemic and it is prudent to begin now and consider all options to meet the needs of our membership and make this event engaging and accessible.

More information will be reported at the October 2021 Board meeting.

Next year, our newly elected Delegate will be heading to Brooklyn, New York, for the 72<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference.

Please join me for our next Coffee and Conversation on Wednesday, October 6, 2021, at 7 p.m. on Zoom. This is a time for you to ask questions, share comments and concerns, and fellowship. It is an informal meeting, and all are welcome.

Again, I can't speak enough about what an honor it is to be able to serve Alcoholics Anonymous as an Area Delegate. My experience as Delegate has been unique for sure, but I wouldn't trade the lessons learned and experience and knowledge gained for anything! I am amazed that you trusted me with this opportunity and am forever grateful!

Please feel free to contact me at [delegate@aageorgia.org](mailto:delegate@aageorgia.org)

Recognition of past Area Officers

Approve Minutes from May 2021 Virtual Assembly

**Approved by poll 162-0**

Area Office Reports

## **Alternate Delegate's Report: Jim T.**

The September 2021 Alternate Delegate's Report will cover the following topics

1. 2021 Cluster Forums: Regions, Locations, Timing
  2. 2022 Cluster Forum Schedule
  3. Area 16 Functions List through December 31, 2021
  4. 68<sup>th</sup> Prepaid Convention: Jekyll Island (2021)
1. This year's Cluster Forums were to be held in the Southeast, East Central, Northwest, and District 17 Regions. They were to be hosted by District 5B (March), District 8 (June), District 14D (August), and District 17 (November), respectively. The theme was "AA in a Time of Change", with the sub-themes being "Practicing AA Spiritual Principles in a Changing World", "Recovery in a Changing World", and "Service in a Changing World". The SE Region Cluster Forum was canceled and the East Central was held virtually due to Covid. The NW Cluster Forum was our first in-person Cluster Forum since 2019 and the District 17 Cluster Forum is scheduled (in person) for November 14<sup>th</sup> in Doraville.
  2. The 2022 Cluster Forum schedule is as follows: SW (District 1A in February), West Central (District 10D in June), NE (District 11A in August), and District 13 (District 13B in November).
  3. Following is the list of events remaining in 2021 for Area 16. Although some have been canceled due to COVID-19, we still have virtual events scheduled to carry out the business of Area 16 (Georgia):
    - Georgia State Service Assembly  
September 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> (Virtual)
    - Atlanta Men's Workshop (Rock Eagle)  
Canceled
    - 68<sup>th</sup> Georgia Prepaid Convention  
October 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> (Virtual)
    - DCM Planning Meeting  
November 6<sup>th</sup>, 1-3 p.m. (Virtual)

- Fifth Annual Corrections Conference  
New Orleans (November 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>)
- District 17 Cluster Forum  
November 14<sup>th</sup> (Doraville)
- SSAASA  
November 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> (Virtual)

\* Our next Georgia State Service Assembly will be held in Dublin at the Dubose Porter Center (we hope!), which is located at the Oconee Fall Line Technical College (South Campus), 560 Pinehill Road, Dublin, GA 31021. The dates are January 14 through 17, 2022. We look forward to seeing all of you in Dublin for the first Assembly held at our new location! The facility is very nice and should accommodate us well.

4. As most of you are aware, the 68<sup>th</sup> Prepaid Convention has been changed to a virtual Convention. This decision was made by the Prepaid Committee earlier this month due to a severe spike in Covid cases and the resulting total lack of available medical capacity in Southeast Georgia. This will be the first time we have ever held a virtual Convention in Area 16, so we hope everyone will join us as we make history (again) in Georgia. The Zoom Meeting ID is 709 870 9964 and the password is DrBob1935 (case sensitive) for all sessions. There will be lots of interesting events during this Prepaid, such as Speaker Meetings, AA and Al-Anon discussion meetings, workshops, and Sober Trivia. The Program and new flyer can be found on our Area website at [www.aageorgia.org](http://www.aageorgia.org).

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Alternate Delegate. It has been an honor and a privilege. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions at: [altdelegate@aageorgia.org](mailto:altdelegate@aageorgia.org).

## **Secretary's Report: Liz W.**

Your DCM will be receiving their annual Group update packets in the next few weeks. Please get with your DCM and make sure your group information is up to date.

To access the Directory online, go to [aageorgia.org](http://aageorgia.org), highlight "Service" and a menu bar will drop down. Click on "Area Service Directory", then click on the folder to enter this password-protected area. The password is "Gssa@2006". The online directory is exactly like to hard copy, and it is updated regularly. It is still important that we stay connected. Let's keep our communication moving forward by updating:

**GROUP INFORMATION:** Please remember to keep your group information updated on the website and for the service directory. Adding or changing group information can be done on our website by going to [aageorgia.org](http://aageorgia.org). Specific instructions are on the Power-Point under the Secretary section of the service window.

Assembly contributions can also be made on the website. Just click on the big blue "Assembly Contribution" tab at the bottom of the homepage of our website.

**Meeting Guide App:** When you update your information at [aageorgia.org](http://aageorgia.org), it updates your information on the Meeting Guide App. There is an exception for the Atlanta and Savannah districts. Those updates will come through your Intergroup office, so be sure to notify them of your changes as well.

**Ordering Literature:** You may purchase literature on the website as well using the "Buy Online" tab at the top right of the website's homepage. If you need assistance with anything, the office is open Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Or you can leave a message on the website and someone will get back to you when they are in.

**DISTRICT MINUTES:** Remember to email your district minutes to [districtminutes@aageorgia.org](mailto:districtminutes@aageorgia.org)

**GSSA BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES:** The minutes from the GSSA Business Meeting will be available online before October

# THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA

1<sup>st</sup>. This will give you accurate information to take back to your groups and Districts.

**Contact the Secretary:** If there is anything I can do to be of service to you or your group, please contact me at [secretary@aaageorgia.org](mailto:secretary@aaageorgia.org)

<div> <div>AREA16</div> <div>GEORGIA STATE SERVICE ASSEMBLY</div> </div>				
INCOME REPORTING				
	2021 Actual	Jan-Aug Budget	2021 Difference	2021 Budget
Ordinary Income	\$126,313.82	\$118,805.92	\$7,507.90	\$178,208.88
Literature	\$39,999.49	\$55,871.73	(\$15,872.23)	\$83,807.60
Total Income	\$166,313.31	\$174,677.65	(\$8,364.34)	\$262,016.47
<a href="http://aaageorgia.org">aaageorgia.org</a>   <a href="mailto:gssa@aaageorgia.org">gssa@aaageorgia.org</a>   P.O. Box 7325 Macon, GA 31209   Phone: 478-745-2588   Gssa@2006				

## Treasurer's Report: Kelly G.


<div> <div>AREA16</div> <div>GEORGIA STATE SERVICE ASSEMBLY</div> </div>				
EXPENSE REPORTING				
	2021 Actual	Jan-Aug Budget	2021 Difference	2021 Budget
Committees (Office & Service)	\$3,474.90	\$24,318.67	\$20,843.77	\$36,478.00
Assembly	\$479.28	\$27,211.21	\$26,731.93	\$40,816.80
Operations	\$79,576.86	\$76,880.75	(\$2,696.11)	\$115,321.12
Literature	\$44,287.17	\$46,575.00	\$2,287.83	\$69,862.50
Total Expenses	\$127,818.21	\$174,985.61	\$47,167.42	\$262,478.42
<a href="http://aaageorgia.org">aaageorgia.org</a>   <a href="mailto:gssa@aaageorgia.org">gssa@aaageorgia.org</a>   P.O. Box 7325 Macon, GA 31209   Phone: 478-745-2588   Gssa@2006				

<div> <div>AREA16</div> <div>GEORGIA STATE SERVICE ASSEMBLY</div> </div>				
EXPENSES BY COMMITTEE				
	2021 Actual	Jan-Aug Budget	2021 Difference	2021 Budget
Office Committee	\$21.60	\$6,254.67	\$6,233.07	\$9,382.00
PI/CPC	\$0	\$1,406.67	\$1,406.67	\$2,110.00
Communications	\$1,169.81	\$4,490.67	\$3,320.86	\$6,736.00
Treatment	\$47.30	\$2,306.67	\$2,259.37	\$3,460.00
Corrections	-\$60.00	\$2,606.67	\$2,666.67	\$3,910.00
Archives	\$403.30	\$2,573.33	\$2,170.03	\$3,860.00
Grapevine	\$27.90	\$1,680.00	\$1,652.20	\$2,520.00
Miscellaneous	\$1,864.99	\$3,000.00	\$1,135.01	\$4,500.00
<a href="http://aaageorgia.org">aaageorgia.org</a>   <a href="mailto:gssa@aaageorgia.org">gssa@aaageorgia.org</a>   P.O. Box 7325 Macon, GA 31209   Phone: 478-745-2588   Gssa@2006				

<div> <div>AREA16</div> <div>GEORGIA STATE SERVICE ASSEMBLY</div> </div>				
TOTALS				
	2021 Actual	Jan-Aug Budget	2021 Difference	2021 Budget
Total Income	\$166,313.31	\$174,677.65	(\$8,364.34)	\$262,016.47
Total Expenses	\$127,818.21	\$174,985.61	\$47,167.42	\$262,478.42
Difference	\$38,495.10	(\$307.96)	38,803.08	(\$461.95)
<a href="http://aaageorgia.org">aaageorgia.org</a>   <a href="mailto:gssa@aaageorgia.org">gssa@aaageorgia.org</a>   P.O. Box 7325 Macon, GA 31209   Phone: 478-745-2588   Gssa@2006				

<div> <div>AREA16</div> <div>GEORGIA STATE SERVICE ASSEMBLY</div> </div>	
PRUDENT RESERVE FUND	
Current Reserve Fund Balance <i>as of 08/31/2021</i>	\$183,643.30
Operating Expenses <i>as of 12/31/2019</i>	\$177,293.80
The office committee has voted to continue using 2019 operating expenses as a benchmark for the prudent reserve. The number of months of operating expenses we have in reserve should reflect a normal operating year.	
Months of Operating Expenses	12.43
<a href="http://aaageorgia.org">aaageorgia.org</a>   <a href="mailto:gssa@aaageorgia.org">gssa@aaageorgia.org</a>   P.O. Box 7325 Macon, GA 31209   Phone: 478-745-2588   Gssa@2006	

<div> <div>AREA16</div> <div>GEORGIA STATE SERVICE ASSEMBLY</div> </div>	
PREPAID CONVENTION	
2020 Total Contributions	\$27,050.15
2021 YTD Contributions	\$28,191.81
Reserve Fund Balance <i>as of 08/31/2021</i>	\$154,514.55
Number of Conventions per Reserve <i>based on a 3-year rolling average</i>	3.65
3- year rolling average: \$42,324.96 2017, 2018, 2019 – no prepaid convention in 2020	
<a href="http://aaageorgia.org">aaageorgia.org</a>   <a href="mailto:gssa@aaageorgia.org">gssa@aaageorgia.org</a>   P.O. Box 7325 Macon, GA 31209   Phone: 478-745-2588   Gssa@2006	

<div> <div>AREA16</div> <div>GEORGIA STATE SERVICE ASSEMBLY</div> </div>	
ONLINE CONTRIBUTIONS	
Go to <a href="http://www.aaageorgia.org">www.aaageorgia.org</a> and click "Contribute" at the top. Acknowledge that you are an AA member. You can pay with a PayPal account, debit or credit card.	
GSSA has a Venmo account! @GSSA-Area16	
	
<a href="http://aaageorgia.org">aaageorgia.org</a>   <a href="mailto:gssa@aaageorgia.org">gssa@aaageorgia.org</a>   P.O. Box 7325 Macon, GA 31209   Phone: 478-745-2588   Gssa@2006	

# THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA

## **Ernie M. (Office Committee Chair):**

Thank you, Rick. About 10 days ago, I received a package in the mail, and it was a large blue crystal teardrop, very beautifully done and just about a foot high. I thoroughly enjoy it. It has the space to hold a lot of tears of joy. A lot of anticipation, surprises and comfort will fit in that tear. But it also holds the tears of the people that we have lost or those that have left us. The remainder will be filled with gratitude for all those who have supported, mentored, and advised me through the 10 years of service to Area 16. As past members of the office committee, we each owe many thanks to those who are in Area 16, from the general membership to the many chairpersons and co-chairpersons, to GSRs to DCMs. There is a lot of gratitude in my heart for all of you. I don't intend to go away. I'll be around. But my sincere thanks for all the support you have given me, the past delegates that have helped me through those 10 years, and I can't say thank you enough to all of you. Thank you for the privilege of being able to serve Area 16. Thank you.

## **Guest Remarks, Tom H. (SE Regional Trustee):**

I wanted to thank Debi for her excellent report, and also thank everybody that's rotating at this Assembly for their service to and for Area 16. Debi asked me to focus mostly on literature items, and I noticed that she avoided in her report some of the "hot" literature items, so I came prepared to talk about them. And I crossed off a bunch of things from my list because Debi covered so much so well.

As Debi mentioned, there were nine advisory actions on Literature and nine committee considerations, and some of the things that are part of the advisory actions are to make a fourth edition of the Spanish Big Book and a fourth edition of the Plain Language Big Book. There has been a sub-committee appointed for the Plain Language Big Book. The chair of that sub-committee will be my guest at the fourth quarterly Zoom meeting with the Delegates and Alternate Delegates. So, if you are interested in a lot of these items, and I know that probably many of you are, you can reach out and I know your Delegate-elect, Alternate Delegate-elect and current Delegate will send out some kind of notification or updates on the progress of these literature items. And that will happen in late November, so that's still a little way off. There were some changes to the Twelve and Twelve; as you guys might imagine, there is much talk about that as well with changing Bill's words. I imagine there might be some questions when we get to the general sharing session. I'd be happy to answer any questions that you guys might have. One of the things that I'm hearing about the fourth edition plain language Big Book and the fifth edition of the Big Book that will be upcoming is "how is this process going to happen"? So, when the fourth edition Big Book was made, it took five years. You can look in the past advisory actions to see how that process occurred. So, I want to ask everybody for a little bit of pause while they figure that out. This advisory action just came from the 71<sup>st</sup> GSC. I was not present at that conference, and I'm trying to get up to speed with everything that has happened since. I know that it was a five-year process before the fourth edition of the Big Book was approved at conference. A lot of the questions that I'm being asked are "How do you get to become a part of that?" and "What will the process be?" I can tell you that as a trustee on the GSB I will ask that the process be defined and presented to the Fellowship. What I'm trying to say is that the process is yet to be defined. I am going to encourage and push for that process to be defined in years one or two, not year five when it's being voted on, so that the Fellowship can weigh in on whether or not they

like that process. If you're pretty familiar with a lot of this stuff, and I know some of you are, we come from a very educated Area here in Area 16; you might have noticed that the fourth edition Plain Language Big Book advisory action says "translated". Translations are not required to have conference approval. When we translate the Big Book into the many languages that Debi mentioned in her report, there is no approval process for that. What we already have is set and it's translated. There are companies that do plain language translation; however, I promise you there will be a process in place for that. I don't know what it is yet. We will definitely have more information after the fourth quarterly board meeting, which is at the end of October and the beginning of November, and as I've said, my guest at the Zoom meeting with the Delegates and alternates is the chair of the sub-committee on the Plain Language Big Book. So, we will have a lot more information then. Those were kind of the tough items to talk about, and of course, as many of you know, the Preamble has been changed as well. The fourth quarterly board meeting for the GSB will be a face-to-face event in New York with a hybrid option. There's lots of safety things in place for that, and I'm really looking forward to that.

The GSO has a back-to-work date of October 1<sup>st</sup>. I have received some complaints about delays in responses to phone calls or emails to GSO. I did write a letter to the General Manager about those delays and copied all three chairs of the boards. I got a very nice response from him about that, and I would ask for some patience while they get back to work. If in a month or two you are still having delays that are unacceptable to you, please let me know, and I will, once again, address that issue with the General Manager of the GSB. I know a previous General Manager had a 10-day turnaround as a goal, and they seemed to meet that goal 95% of the time when I talked to him within a couple of days.

There is a safety in AA flyer that will be available by October 15<sup>th</sup>. If you didn't know, there is also a yellow card about safety in AA. That stuff is available at <https://onlineliterature.aa.org>. The AA Ukraine board and its corrections committee representatives are working with AAWS to deliver excess copies from our inventory of the Ukrainian Big Book, and its previous translation edition at no charge to Ukrainian prisons in the five Ukrainian districts. None of that stuff could be available without your contributions.

Thanks, Kelly, for your financial report, and Debi yours as well. There was a comment made at a meeting I attended this weekend, why should we "bail them out". I think that is not the way that I would look at that. I don't know that any "bailing out" needs to be done at this point. I think Covid was a unique situation where at first when groups went virtual, there was no literature being purchased, and there were no contributions coming in, and as groups got more virtual contributions coming in through Venmo and PayPal, and a request was made for contributions from AA members, we had our largest membership contributions than we've ever had in AA's history. I reached out to the Area 16 Treasurer in chat yesterday at the DCM meeting, asking if she would keep me up to date on those Venmo transactions. I'm very curious about that. I know, in my home group, we are tracking about 60% contributions through Venmo and 40% through cash. I know that this is difficult for an Area Treasurer to capture when a group sends in contributions because we don't know how that individual group received contributions, but maybe through literature

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sales, or something like that. I'm very curious. I think, in the future, that because of the electronic availability of donating, this could increase what we see in the "hat money" simply because it is easier to contribute. In my group, we have a little card in the basket that we pass around that has the Venmo code and the PayPal code. People can scan it on their phone real quick. Hardly anybody carries cash anymore. So, I'm very interested in this way of contributing to our Fellowship.

There is a CPC video on YouTube that I sent to the Delegates and Alternate Delegates for feedback on, which we're going to be discussing at the Fourth Quarterly board weekend. If you guys want to jot it down and go to YouTube, and do a search, not now, but if you're taking notes, do a search for "Does AA Work?", I think it's the second video when doing a search, last time I searched for that on YouTube, from Stanford University. It's about a 15-minute video. It's not an AA-produced video, but I thought it was a pretty good video from the private sector about Alcoholics Anonymous, and I know we're going to discuss how we might use that video with our CPC and PI work. So, again, keep in mind when you watch this video, that it wasn't produced by Alcoholics Anonymous, but I thought it was very well done, and I'd love to hear your feedback on that.

There are 106 AAWS videos posted to our YouTube page if you are not familiar with that. AAWS, AA Grapevine, the General Service Board and staff never search Google for Tradition violations or copyright issues. However, we do look at things that are brought to our attention. I recently received an email about a couple of apps that someone was concerned about, and they wanted to know if they violated any Traditions, or they felt they violated Traditions. One question I always ask people is, what tradition? Because I might not see that like you do. I want to know, what tradition do you think this is violating? So, I downloaded both of those apps and I looked at them. I didn't see any tradition violations. That doesn't mean there aren't any, I just didn't see any off the top of my head, in a five- or 10-minute review. I did have some concerns about potential copyright issues. I forwarded those to the chair of the AAWS board. We don't know about them as board members, and we're not going to track them down unless you guys bring them to our attention, but when you do, we will follow up with them. I wanted you to know that.

If you're not familiar, the Concepts are available on audio at [aa.org](http://aa.org)

Lastly, I will speak to the Grapevine. It has been in continuous production since 1944. La Viña, this year, celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The web store is up and running. The AA Grapevine Archives are fully digital. Debi mentioned the Instagram page, which was implemented one month after the advisory action was voted in. And the AA Grapevine released two books, one of them is "Free on the Inside", and the other one is "Prayer and Meditation" available this month. La Viña issued a book called "Voices of Women". The YouTube channel is populated by a ton of AA Grapevine videos. So, some feel-good stuff as I end my report with you guys today, and again, I really appreciate you having me, and giving me the time to speak with you. Rick asked for Tom to tell the body about the committees he has been assigned to as SE Regional Trustee:

The Trustees committees that I was assigned to are the Corrections Committee, the CPC/Treatment and Accessibilities Committee. I was asked to chair a sub-committee for CPC on the Armed Forces interviews. I was also assigned to the International Convention and Regional Forums Committee. I was asked to

be the Vice Chair of that committee and the Vice Chair on CPC. And recently I was asked to be on a sub-committee for the online groups, and how to acknowledge them, geographically define them, stuff like that. That committee was just formed within the last week or so. So, those are the committees that I currently serve on.

Rick asked Tom to provide his contact information in the chat in the event someone wished to contact him. His email is [tomhoban@pm.me](mailto:tomhoban@pm.me) and his phone number is 770-402-7779.

### Old Business

Report from 68<sup>th</sup> Georgia Prepaid – Jekyll Island  
Deborah C., Prepaid Committee Chair:

I'd like to thank all who entrusted me with the opportunity to chair the 68<sup>th</sup> Prepaid Convention on Jekyll Island. It saddens me that the in-person Convention has been cancelled due to the Covid numbers in this pocket of SE Georgia being extremely high. The hospitals are full, and the National Guard is assisting in support in our area hospitals, so the Committee vote to cancel was in the best interest of AA as a whole. It was and is a heartbreaking decision for us as many have done a lot of work to put this together, and I'm confident many of you were really looking forward to it, as were we.

I need to thank our committee for their excellent work. Our Co-Chair, Jimmy M., has worked tirelessly and done an outstanding job. Peggy L., our secretary, has done an outstanding job of minute-taking, which wasn't always easy on our Zoom planning meetings. Our treasurer, Jane D., has done a great job keeping up with the money and is now in the process of refunding. Our volunteer Chair, Christine M., has done an excellent job recruiting and scheduling. Megan J., our hospitality chair, was looking forward to providing refreshments for everyone. Sam D., our program chair, has worked hard on putting it all together and we greatly appreciate her efforts. Robin M., banquet and speaker dinner chair, had a fabulous menu selected and has done great work. Glen B., activities chair, has been very excited and helpful in gathering and scheduling activities. Norma H., and Luck F., speaker chair and co-chair, rounded up some terrific speakers and workshop contributors. If I have missed anyone, my apologies.

The hotels are going to cancel all rooms reserved under the 68<sup>th</sup> Prepaid Convention room blocks and if you are still planning on coming to visit, or even if you're not, you may want to check your reservations and if canceled, reserve again. They will honor the rates quoted for the convention.

Now! I am excited to let you know we are having the **FIRST** ever virtual Prepaid Convention! Norma H. has graciously taken charge of managing and organizing this and at this time, I will turn it over to her for her report and information about our Virtual Convention. Y'all hang onto your hats it's going to be great! All the log-in info and schedule is on the website. Here's Norma to tell you all about it!

The registration for the 69<sup>th</sup> Prepaid will go up on October 18<sup>th</sup>, the day after the close of our convention. Please register!

Norma H., Speaker Chair and Virtual Program Coordinator:  
After voting to cancel the in-person convention on Jekyll Island,



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the committee regrouped and came up with a proposed program which was unanimously approved on September 12, 2021. It is summarized as follows:

The Voices will be Jimmy M. and Glen B.

Two of our speakers backed off from a virtual program but were quickly replaced. Our speakers are now Bentley M. from Raleigh, NC; Ralph W. from Los Angeles, CA; Peg P. from Manassas, VA; Steve L. from Nashville, TN; and Johnny T. from Lawtey, FL. Our Al-Anon speaker is Larcine G. from Hawthorne, CA. Carol G., Certified ASL Interpreter for the Deaf, will sign for only the speakers. We hope to have closed captioning for the entire conference, but we are still working with Paul and Dave to finalize it. Glen B. has created one-of-a-kind gifts for our speakers, which will be displayed and later mailed to them.

We have three Workshops planned: A New Hand of AA with Patty L. and Mark J.; "Times Change but Spiritual Principles Do Not" with speakers Steve L. and Johnny T.; and Cultivating Communication Through Technology with Debi K., Jim T., Micah G., Paul W. and Rick M. Hopefully, we will be able to have time at the end of these workshops for a question-and-answer period from the audience. Chairpersons have been selected.

We have four discussion meetings scheduled: "Tradition One, Unity", "Rocketed into the Fourth Dimension", "What's in Your Spiritual Tool Kit?", and "Hope for Today" (Al-Anon). Chairpersons have been selected.

Our activities were significantly reduced, but we were able to save the Sober Trivia game slated for Friday night. Glen will host it and coordinate with Paul and Dave on how to incorporate it into the virtual platform.

The entertainment for Saturday night will be a program by AA members from all over Georgia and the world. A flyer will be out shortly with instructions on how to participate. The "Ice Cream Social" will require everyone to bring their own ice cream!

There will be an hour of gentle yoga on the Saturday morning program.

We will have three meal breaks during which time information from the various committees (Archives, Grapevine, PICPC, Armed Forces, Corrections, Communications, Online AA Intergroup) will be shown.

The flyer has been emailed to all DCMs in Georgia as well as intergroups. It has been posted on the Area 16 website. We will also encourage AA members to email it out to their friends in other states as well as across the globe.

## Birthday Contributions

### District 7 Zone A

Get Real Group

Ronny H – 33 Years

Primary Purpose Group

Norman S – 10 Years

The Surrender Group

Fran L - September 11, 2012

### District 7 Zone B

Sisters In Sobriety Group

Marianne Mc - August 22, 2009

### District 13 Zone E

Easy Does It Group

Chuck H - July 30, 1990

### District 16 Zone B

Alumni Group

Randy P - August 17, 1991

## 68th Georgia State Prepaid Convention

### Schedule

**October 15-17, 2021 First Ever Virtual Prepaid Convention**

### Friday, October 15

<b>1:00pm EDT / 5:00pm GMT</b>	Welcome	Deborah C & Jimmy M.
<b>1:15pm EDT / 5:15pm GMT</b>	Discussion Meeting	<i>Tradition One, Unity</i>
<b>2:30pm EDT / 6:30pm GMT</b>	Workshop: <i>A New Hand of AA</i>	Patty L. & Mark J.
<b>4:00pm EDT / 8:00pm GMT</b>	Speaker	Bentley M., Raleigh, NC
<b>Dinner Break</b>		
<b>7:00pm EDT / 11:00pm GMT</b>	Speaker	Ralph W., Los Angeles, CA
<b>9:00pm EDT / 1:00am GMT</b>	Sober Trivia	Glen "Big Dog" B.

### Saturday, October 16

<b>7:00am EDT / 11:00am GMT</b>	Sunrise Meeting	<i>Pivotal Points in Recovery</i>
<b>8:00am EDT / 12:00pm GMT</b>	Gentle Yoga	Joyce Y.
<b>9:00am EDT / 1:00pm GMT</b>	Al-Anon Discussion	<i>Hope for Today</i>
<b>10:00am EDT / 2:00pm GMT</b>	Speaker	Peg P., Manassas, VA
<b>11:15am EDT / 3:15pm GMT</b>	Workshop: <i>Times Change but Spiritual Principles Do Not</i>	Steve L. & Johnny T.

### Lunch Break

<b>1:30pm EDT / 5:30pm GMT</b>	Al-Anon Speaker	Larcine G., Hawthorne, CA
<b>3:00pm EDT / 7:00pm GMT</b>	Workshop: <i>Cultivating Communication Through Technology</i>	Debi K., Jim T., Micah G., Paul W., & Rick M.
<b>5:00pm EDT / 9:00pm GMT</b>	Discussion Meeting	<i>Rocketed into the 4th Dimension</i>

### Dinner Break

<b>7:30pm EDT / 11:30pm GMT</b>	Speaker	Steve L., Nashville, TN
<b>9:30pm EDT / 1:30am GMT</b>	<b>Ice Cream Social &amp; Musical Entertainment:</b> Settle in with your ice cream and enjoy the music! • <i>BYOIC (Bring Your Own Ice Cream)</i>	

### Sunday, October 17

<b>8:00am EDT / 12:00pm GMT</b>	Discussion Meeting	<i>What's in Your Spiritual Toolkit?</i>
<b>9:15am EDT / 1:15pm GMT</b>	Speaker	Johnny T., Lawtey, FL

### EVENT

### DETAILS

Meeting ID: 709 870 9964 / Password: DrBob1935

Call-In (By Location):

+13126266799,,7098709964#,,,,\*042964075# US (Chicago)

+19294362866,,7098709964#,,,,\*042964075# US (New York)

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2. Vote on Motion: **Area 16 (Georgia) implement a "Motion to Decline to Consider" procedure every time a motion is made on the Assembly floor that would, if passed, necessitate a policy (Manual) change."**

There was no discussion on the motion. Rick launched a poll. Two-thirds required for this motion to pass. 110 voted in favor of the motion. 49 were opposed. **Motion passed.**

## **New Business**

1. Approval – Area 16 use of 2022 General Service Conference theme and workshop titles for the 2022 Cluster Forums and Prepaid Convention: "AA Comes of Age 2.0: Unified in Love and Service."  
**Approved by poll 156-1**
2. Election for Delegate and Alternate Delegate (Candidates: Tom B., Daniel L., Amy B., Tracy M., Allison B.)

## **Delegate Elections:**

Candidate	Ballot 1	Ballot 2	Ballot 3
Allison B	17	10	-
Amy B	38	33	46
Daniel L	5	4	-
Tom B	33	27	-
Tracy M	60	82	109

Our new Delegate is Tracy M.

## **Alternate Delegate Elections:**

Candidate	Ballot 1	Ballot 2
Allison B	15	8
Amy B	94	112
Daniel L	8	3
Tom B	38	33

Amy B (Later disqualified)

3. **General Sharing**  
**Stacey F (GSR, 12A, New Perceptions):** I had a quick question that our home group business meeting brought to my attention. For someone to run as a Delegate, do they need to be, we thought they needed to have on their résumé, to be a GSR? We noticed that with Amy B, she listed as Alternate GSR, but not actually a GSR. Can you answer that question for me?  
**Rick M (Area Chairperson):** Actually, in our Service Manual, it lists those qualifications. Debi, do you have any comment on that?  
**Debi K (Area Delegate):** I do. It says that the requirements are having served a minimum of one year as GSR, actively engaged in Group, District and State affairs, and also to serve as a DCM.  
**Stacey F:** So, I guess my question is, is it just a typo, or was Amy actually just an alternate GSR, or was she actually a GSR?  
**Rick M:** How about someone from the office committee go ahead and take a look at that for me, please? Stacey, hold on. We will get back to you.  
**Mike S (GSR, Grateful Group):** Box 4-5-9, I was noticing in the recent edition, that it had announcements from other states and other areas. We didn't have our Prepaid in there. I just want to try and keep everything updated and as clean as possible.  
**Rick M:** I see what you are saying. It should have been in Box 4-5-9. Does anyone know on the office committee who gives that to Box 4-5-9? Or is it up to the committee to do

that?

- Ernie M (Area Office Chair):** That should have been up to the convention committee to have submitted it to Box 4-5-9.
- Karen A (DCM, 11B):** In regards to our newly elected Alternate Delegate, Amy B, I just had a question to as to being the Alternate GSR. My questions is, our Big Book states that our book is suggestive only, and that our guidelines are usually suggestions only, she is a DCM, a well-served DCM in our Area 16, she was duly elected. I just wanted to make that statement. Thank you.
- Liz W (Area Secretary):** I am looking at her résumé right now. And it says that she was Alternate GSR between 2005-2008. That's three years, so there has to have been a typo, because that had to have been Alternate and GSR because it is a three-year period.
- Rusty L (DCM, 13A):** I just have a question about the change in the Preamble. It's my understanding that the Grapevine owns the rights to the Preamble. It is also my understanding that they made the change in the wording from "men and women" to "people", if I'm not mistaken. Is it true that the change is actually the actual Preamble of AA right now? And the discussion is because of some backlash or some discussion from the body about the change without having necessarily been a part of the process with the change? A little more discussion on that, please, just so we have an understanding. I don't understand it all, and maybe there are others with some questions as well. Thanks.
- Debi K:** What you said was exactly right. Grapevine owns the rights. It was a change that was made by the conference. The Grapevine Board decided to bring that to the conference because it is a sensitive issue. They are looking at the comments, unless an agenda item is submitted, there won't be any change. But they want to reflect on the comments and the feeling of the membership. As of the end of July, the comments were 3:1 to the negative about the change, but there had not been an advisory action submitted. However, that was the end of July, and we had until September 15<sup>th</sup>. More will be revealed. I hope that answers your question. Tom, if you have anything you want to add to that, please feel free.
- Tom H (SE Regional Trustee):** Everything that Debi said is correct. I would add that I have heard the same kind of comments from the body, and I'm preaching to the choir when I speak to everybody at an Assembly, but that AA members were unaware and didn't get to chime in. My personal feeling on that is that this is one of those big-ticket items. It's not your day-to-day advisory action that comes out of conference. That's why we are seeing all the interest. I believe that when the General Service Conference makes a decision, that they should move forward with that decision, and if at some future conference, another body or group conscience wants to change that, so be it. But as we stand, that is the change to the Preamble, because the 71<sup>st</sup> GSC voted two-thirds in favor of that change. And I would say to the people who aren't here, if I could, if you don't like the changes that you are seeing in Alcoholics Anonymous, and you hear about them and all of a sudden you are mad, well, be active in service. Be better informed. I know that's harsh, but that's kind of how I feel about it. The active groups should certainly have known about that.
- George M (GSR, 11B, AA Solutions):** Just a comment. First, I'd like to thank all the people that worked so hard on the Prepaid. I can only imagine the amount of work that goes into an event like that. And I certainly don't mean anything negative towards anyone that worked so hard on something like that. However, I would like to make everyone aware. In our group, in our District, we had a group that got together and reserved a very nice lodge. The prepaid cancellation announcement, when it was made, since we did not stay at one of the pre-contracted facilities that AA had reserved rooms at, we weren't

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given the option of cancelling less than 30 days before the event. So, my wife and I stand to lose a pretty considerable amount of money. It's over a thousand dollars. So, I would just like to suggest to all the future Prepaid committee people, that barring some kind of emergency, like just happened, it becomes a very fine line when you get close to 30 days. And I can understand the lodge's position, but I'm certain that I'm not the only one that lost money because of this. Had we been given just a few more days of notice, we would have been fine. And I understand that these are very bad circumstances, and I agree with their decision. However, when it is a big event like this, I think we should have made that decision a week or two sooner, if at all possible. That's it. Thank you.

Mitch M (Area Grapevine, Co-Chair): I guess my question might be towards Tom. I know we have missed the deadline of putting an agenda item out, but is there some kind of an appeal motion that we can do concerning the Twelve and Twelve changes? I'm kind of disturbed that they made the changes. I thought that the Twelve and Twelve would be treated just like the 164 pages of the Big Book. They are writings of Bill Wilson, and I don't feel they should be changed. Is there a process that we can do as an appeal, and any other comments you might have about that, Tom.

Tom H: Good question. There is. Concept Five allows for the right of appeal. I would encourage you to go through the normal process. You can send it up yourself, certainly, as an individual. All items sent forward are looked at equally. However, if a group conscience supports that appeal, it has a little bit more energy to it. So, changing Bill's words... I've heard this as well, and I understand the sentiment some feel. I don't want to open a can of worms here, but this is a strong Area, so I will just share some of my thoughts about it. If you want to take it a step further, if we change those words, or the Preamble, or a Tradition down the road, as the GSC of the U.S. and Canada, but if we make a decision at our GSC that changes things like the Preamble, Bill's words, or a Tradition, is that binding on other Areas around the world? These types of discussions are going to happen because of this, and they will be better defined in the future, is all I can tell you at this point. These types of things are being heard at the Board level. I just want you to know that I don't have a direct answer for you. As far as an appeal, I would encourage you to go through the group, District, Assembly process, but you are more than welcome to send one up yourself. I would read Concept Five from the manual.

Randy T (Alternate DCM, 7A): I was under the understanding that we've been having a literature backlog, especially Big Books. Could someone address that for us, please? Or tell us where we stand with that? Thank you.

Debi K: Yes, there is a backlog of literature because of the vendors we use to print. They have been impacted by Covid and their employees. They don't have the employees that they used to have, so everything is taking longer. Our GSO is working as quickly as possible to get those materials out, but it has been taking longer, and it's just one of the consequences of Covid and a lack of employees. So, we apologize for that. I do know that they are working hard to get those materials out as soon as they get them. But it is an issue with the printers.

Cliff W (GSR, 13A, Clean Air): Is the vote now final? Or is there still a question as to Amy B's qualifications?

Rick M: As you're speaking, I'm conferring with our past Delegates right now on the best way to proceed. Because, as it appears right now, she does not meet the qualifications. And because you, the body, were presented with that vote, I'm going to ask you, as a body, in a vote, if you'll accept or not, the results of that vote for Alternate Delegate. If you'll hold on just a second, we are working though that with our past Delegates, who are an advisory council to us on things like this. Continue with your general sharing, I would say, and just give me a few moments to confer with them, and we will come back with how we are going to proceed with this.

Cliff W: OK, If that is not an option, because, my thought process is, if that requirement is a suggestion, policy, or guideline, whether by a vote now, or by, if necessary, a motion, to accept the qualifications regardless of whether the suggestion was met, or, I'd have to word it correctly, but basically does it need to be by motion or by vote? Either one?

Rick M: As chair, I will put forward a vote without a motion because it's already been done, it's just something I have to say, "Hey, do we want to live with this vote that we took today, yes or no?", and we will go from there.

Cliff W: One further question, can you confirm that the requirement is a suggestion, policy, or guideline for Delegate? That it is not a strict construction that is a requirement, because it may be an error anyway, in the résumé, but if it is just a recommendation or a suggestion?

Rick M: Even if it is, it's truly up to you, the voting members, right now, right here, as to how you want to handle it. And right now, I'm just looking into the best way to approach that with you. But at the end of the day, it's going to be up to you guys who voted. Bear with me a moment, and we will come back to this.

Tom (Editor): Rick, I have two questions, one of which you've have half-way answered. One is, sometimes, I think, in Alcoholics Anonymous we can get alcoholic. Would it be appropriate for someone to text Amy and ask this question, because if it is indeed a mistake, which it does appear to be, then this is all a moot point. The other question I had, which I think you've addressed, is that these guidelines appear in the Georgia State Manual, which, it seems like, would require a manual change. So, can this body simply vote to accept this result without that? But the more important one is that can we contact Amy and just ask her if she was ever GSR? Because I would truly hate to have to call her later and rescind what she has already been told, and then have to come back and vote again here.

Rick M: Thanks for your questions and your points. We have reached out to Amy. She did confirm that she was only an Alternate GSR. So, I don't want to make this decision. You guys voted with the thought that she did meet the qualifications. I'm first going to propose that you either accept or reject Amy B's qualifications as Alternate Delegate. Meaning, that you accept that you voted her in, we are now learning that she did not qualify, you don't accept it. It will be a yes or no. I would say that acceptance would need to be two-thirds. Rick launched a poll asking that question.

**Poll: Do you accept Amy B and her qualifications for Delegate? 83 Yes, 55 No – two-thirds requirement was not met.**

**Re-vote for Alternate Delegate with just the three qualified candidates on the poll**

Candidate	Ballot 1	Ballot 2
Allison B	51	37
Daniel L	16	8
Tom B	68	90

Our New Alternate Delegate is Tom B

Mark J (Chair, Grapevine): I wanted to make a suggestion, or a comment. Yesterday we were talking about some GSR's possibly in other Districts not having enough money to send their representatives to the Area, and one of the things that I've tried to do, as a past GSR and DCM, and would have liked to have done as Area Chair for the Prepaid was invite someone who can't afford to go to stay in my room with me. I'm single, so that makes a difference. And obviously men with men and women

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with women, but if you've got a District or a group that can afford to send you, and there's enough double beds, I always ask somebody if they want to come if their group can't afford to send them, you are more than welcome to stay in my room, because my District, my group, and fortunately myself can afford to make my own way. I just wanted to throw that out there. With job stuff and other things that may come up, it may not be possible to get to Assembly or other places, but we do have the ability to extend that hand of AA where financially it may not be able to be met. That's all I wanted to say.

Alexandra K (GSR, 13E, Grace Group): I just wanted to put out there that I'm a new GSR as of about a year ago. Now I've been to a full year of these conferences, all on Zoom. This is like my first General Service thing that I've ever done, so I was just kind of thrown into it. I had no idea what I was getting into. I just want to put out there for other new folks to service that learning about the service structure has been really cool for me. I was fortunate enough to also be thrown into a traditions workshop, followed by a concept workshop shortly after becoming a GSR. I've been able to get plugged into a bunch of AA nerds, basically, and learn a lot about the history. I definitely think those are really great things to do if you can find folks who will do workshops with you. There are also so many Zoom study groups now, like history stuff, traditions, concepts and all that. Just like learning about conference, what happens at conference, what it is, what it's like, helps me to understand more and learn more about that whole conference thing. It seems to me from hearing from folks who have attended it or who are closer to conference that it's kept very central what's best for AA as a whole and for the suffering alcoholic. Knowing that people are very considerate, and that things are like deeply researched there helps me to have confidence in what conference is doing, and also, just get plugged in to learn about like what they are doing so that I can feel informed and inform my group in turn. Just wanted to put a plug for that stuff.

Jack B (GSR, 5B, Midway Group): Just a comment about the résumés. I think there needs to be a motion somewhere, but not here, they should probably have the month on them, not just the year because someone could start a position in December of 2021, and not serve the full year, and end in January of 2022. So, just having the year might not be the fullest or best representation for the résumé. That's all. Thank you.

Harold I (Vote Verifier): I just wanted to give a shout-out to the entire Assembly, and the Office Committee, for the way that you guys have handled these last two years. I served on an Office Committee in the early 1990's, and I will guarantee you, and I'm sure that they would agree with me, even though I think just about all of them except me and one other guy from those two Office Committees are dead, we would agree that we would have self-destructed during this pandemic. We would not have been able to handle this. And you guys, including the entire assembly of GSR's, you guys have done an excellent job over the last two years. So, I think that you all ought to be proud of yourselves. And let's continue to move forward no matter what happens, because we've proved that we can do it. So, thank you guys for doing that.

Tom: First of all, Tracy and Tom B, congratulations I know you will do well. I want to apologize to this body, when I got these résumés, I didn't look at them as carefully as I should have, and I should have caught that. Rick, that raises my question. I'm not blaming the Office Committee or anybody else. I'm just curious. Is there a process in place by which those are looked at? People make mistakes, and we clearly did on that. I think it is unfortunate that she was told that she'd been elected, and I'm not blaming this body or anybody else, I just hate as a person that to tell someone that they were elected Alternate and then have to go back and tell them that they were not. It's disappointing for her, obviously.

Rick M: I can tell you that this chair duly noted it from an Office

Committee member. So, it's duly noted, thank you.

Cliff W: One quick question. I'm an alcoholic and I don't like rules, but I wanted clarification on whether those guidelines are an actual requirement or if they were suggestions for qualifications for the position? Just for future reference.

Rick M: For future reference, they are requirements. That manual was put together for the simple reason that, number one, many areas have their own manual, because the service manual doesn't get specific to your state, and it doesn't get specific to your policies and procedures within the state, so, I can tell you that in my conversations with our past trusted officers and Delegates, that that manual was, as Bill put it, "hammered out on the anvil of experience", and put into requirements.

Denny M (GSR, DDL, 5C): Motion to close.

Rick M: I have one other person, if you would allow that person to speak, I will accept your motion to adjourn.

Micah G (Area Chair PI/CPC): I wanted to thank everybody. I have posted in the chat the service manual PDF that's available at aa.org. ([https://www.aa.org/assets/en\\_US/en\\_bm-31.pdf](https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/en_bm-31.pdf)) Page S-38, point #6. It shows the outlines of what we reviewed before we voted today. It lists in there that we had a couple of opportunities to look at and mention some of these things prior to, rather than after the vote. So, it's a learning opportunity that we can all do more studies in service. Plenty of people are involved in concept studies and trying to review as much as we can during workshops, etc., so we can all become more informed about situations like these, and practical application is sometimes the best teacher. I think people handled it well and did a great job responding to it.

Suzanne (GSR, Surrender Group): seconded the motion to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 12:23 p.m. with the Responsibility Statement.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Liz W.  
Area 16 Secretary



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





## FORO REGIONAL METRO ATLANTA (CLUSTER FÓRUM)



DISTRITO LINGÜÍSTICO #17 ÁREA #16

**Domingo, 14 de Noviembre, 2021**

*Grupo Sobriedad Latina*

*3609 Shallowford Rd.*

*Suite 400*

*Atlanta, GA 30340*

### **“A.A. en Tiempos de Cambio”**

- \* Practicar los principios espirituales de  
A.A. en un mundo cambiante*
- \* Recuperación en un mundo cambiante*
- \* Servicio en un mundo cambiante*

**Registración empieza a las 9:00 am**

**Reunión a las 9:30 am**

**Compartiremos desayuno y almuerzo**

*¿Que es un “Cluster Fórum”?.. Literalmente traducida: Grupo de personas que comparten intereses comunes. Los “CLUSTER FORUM” brindan una oportunidad única para compartir experiencias valiosas, hacer preguntas y hablar sobre nuevas ideas. ¿Cómo trabajan ellos?.. Son sesiones de intercambio diseñadas para mejorar y ampliar las comunicaciones entre miembros de AA, personal de servicio potencial y representantes de los Grupos, Distritos y Áreas.*

# AREA 16

GEORGIA STATE SERVICE ASSEMBLY

**Archives Committee Presents:**

**An evening with Sister Ignatia in Pictures**

**- Saturday -**

**November 13th, 7pm - 8pm**

Eastern  
Standard  
Time

**4pm PST. /-/ 5pm MST. /-/ 6pm CST**  
**11am November, 14th - Sydney, Australia**

**Presented By -  
Drew H.**

A visual walk  
through the  
amazing life of  
**Sister Ignatia**  
“The Little Angel Of  
Alcoholics  
Anonymous”.



**Zoom meeting ID = 709 870 9964**

**Password: DrBob1935**