

DELEGATE / delegate@aageorgia.org

Confidential for members
November/December 2022
Volume 58, Numbers 11-12

Purpose and Meaning

By Tracy M.

Area 16 Delegate

What a great opportunity we have in Alcoholics Anonymous to be able to provide hope to others that share in that common misery we experienced ourselves. In my own experience with alcoholism, I can say that my life seemed meaningless when I was the only thing in it.

In "A Vision for You," in our Big Book it states, "Though they knew they must help other alcoholics if they would remain sober, that motive became secondary. It was transcended by the happiness they found in giving themselves for others."

In our Basic Text it tells us numerous times in different ways how important it is for us to work with other alcoholics. I am so grateful

that I get to experience this as a part of my daily life. True purpose and meaning are the mainstay of the work we get to do in AA. We may be serving as a GSR for our group, making coffee, or giving a newcomer a ride to their first meeting. That rush we feel after being of service is more powerful than the results I got from alcohol. I believe our Higher Power knew that we would need that connection to each other to have that purpose and meaning that fills the void our alcoholism created.

Our September Assembly marked a full year of meeting in person after almost two years of Virtual Assemblies. I am confident that Area 16 will continue to grow and adapt as we move forward. In January we will begin to have a limited hybrid option available. All voting will be conducted in person only. Area 16 has not approved electronic voting. We have been

able to grow through many changes. The most important thing moving forward is that we have Unity and be open to new ideas moving forward. We want to reach as many people with service opportunities as we can.

I was able to participate in the first Annual Workshop of Hispanic Women of Georgia in Alcoholics Anonymous. There was participation from GSO, Paz P. General Service Trustee from Arizona, as well as our new La Vina Editor. This experience was overwhelm-

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ALTERNATE DELEGATE / alt_delegate@aageorgia.org

The Service Structure

By Tom B.

Area 16 Alternate Delegate

Page 2 of The AA Service Manual (2021-2023 edition) states, "Bill proposed a plan to create a 'service structure' to facilitate Twelfth Step work across the country and around the world. This structure would bring to bear the collective conscience of the groups on matters affecting 'AA as a whole.' At the heart of this structure would be the AA groups themselves, providing both the conscience and financial support for AA services throughout the Fellowship. It would be a structure to take the place of government in AA, ensuring that the full voice of AA would be heard. Today, we call the service structure that developed from Bill's plan the General Service Conference structure, or

simply, general service. As the founding fathers and first leaders of Alcoholics Anonymous, Bill W. and Dr. Bob knew that the best individuals to succeed their early leadership roles would be the collective conscience of the groups in AA. Hence, the development of the General Service Conference.

This year I have been addressing the importance of participating in the AA service structure through communication, making sure your voice and the group conscience is heard, and attending our Area 16 Service Assembly. By suiting up and showing up, each AA member helps ensure the survival of Alcoholics Anonymous and its ability to carry the message to the suffering alcoholic. Our service structure provides a pathway to reach out through many avenues. We have meetings, service boards, committees, and Intergroup offices. These

bodies carry the message by distributing literature, giving their time, presenting workshops, working with professionals in the medical, judicial, and correctional fields, as well as being available to the clergy. The opportunities to carry the message are endless!

So, I ask you, "How can an individual group take on *all these opportunities and responsibilities to carry the message?*" *It can't! It is impossible for one group, by itself, to facilitate and execute all forms of outreach effectively. This is why we have specialized committees, service boards, and special workers. It is an individual group's responsibility to send a trusted servant/representative to these differ-*

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SECRETARY / secretary@aageorgia.org

Opportunities for Growth

By Liz W.

Area 16 Secretary

It is with a full and thankful heart that I write you my final Message article as your Area 16 Secretary. Assembly has passed, I have just finished up with transcribing the minutes, and I have to say that I will miss it. This time, there was more to being secretary than just taking minutes.

The first time I took on the duties of secretary to my home group there was much expected of me. I had to keep up with the membership list, periodically update the meeting script, keep a birthday list current, and let the treasurer know what chips to order each month. I made announcements of upcoming birthdays and other events, took minutes at our monthly business meeting, and distributed those minutes by either email or hard copy, as both were still required.

On the other hand, the next time I took on the task of group secretary, all I was asked to do was take the minutes of the business meeting and send them to the person in charge of keeping up the membership list. It was their job to distribute them.

Thankfully, there has always been room to put my own twist on whatever job I have had the privilege to do for Alcoholics Anonymous. Every opportunity I have been given to serve has helped me to develop into the person that I have become. All I have had to do was remain willing to try something I was absolutely sure I couldn't do. It has been and remains an amazing journey.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for allowing me this great honor. I look forward to the next Great Journey that God has in store for me, whatever that may be. I will continue to trudge this road of happy destiny. May God bless you and keep you until we meet again!

TREASURER / treasurer@aageorgia.org

2023 Planning

By Kelly G.

Area 16 Treasurer

This last Assembly was extra special for me because it was my last as your Treasurer. I have thoroughly enjoyed serving as your Treasurer, and I will always think fondly of these two years — especially the time I got to spend meeting and sharing a passion for service with each of you. Our finances, as of August 2022, remain strong. Our total income is \$180,813.82 (\$180,662.50 budgeted). Total expenses were \$148,760.50 (\$180,988.06 budgeted). This equates to a net income of \$32,053.32.

Our current prudent reserve sits at \$184,035.12, which is 12.46 months of 2019 operating expenses. We could not use 2020 and 2021 operating expenses for comparison based

on restricted operations. Because of inflation of the last few years, our expenses have increased, and we expect our prudent reserve will need to increase significantly to cover 12 months based on 2022 operating expenses.

This is an important couple of months, as I will be meeting with all DCMs November 5th to discuss and approve a new GSSA budget for 2023. The budget, approved by the Budget & Finance Committee, was delivered to DCMs at Assembly. If you have questions between now and that meeting, don't hesitate to reach out to me directly: treasurer@aageorgia.org.

Thank you to the Budget & Finance Committee for helping put together a budget. (Tom B., Alternate Delegate, Tamera P., Office

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SAMPLE 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.

No Central Office:

Georgia State Service Assembly (GSSA) – 50%
General Service Office (GSO) – 30%
Prepaid Convention – 10%
District/Zone – 10%

Central Office included:

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

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

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GRAPEVINE / La Viña / grapevine@aageorgia.org

Carry the Message

Mark J., Chair

Mitch M., Co-Chair

Area 16 Grapevine / La Viña Committee

First off, I want to congratulate District 8 for a highly successful Grape-A-Thon. They raised over \$1,300 for the "Carry the Message Project." Well done to all who put this event on and to all who participated!

New Book Release

Sobriedad emocional: Más allá del horizonte features powerful stories by sober members of Alcoholics Anonymous describing the positive transformations sobriety can bring as they practice the principles of AA in all aspects of their lives. The rewards of emotional sobriety are serenity, emotional balance, and an increased joy for living. Translated into Spanish from the pages of Grapevine, the International Journal of AA, the stories illustrate how alcoholics in recovery work the AA program, learn to let go of fear, practice outgoing love, and become more connected to their Higher Power, family, and Fellows. One of AA Grapevine's most popular books, now available in Spanish.

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 to participate by sending in stories, artwork, 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. Grapevine representatives are the link between AA Grapevine and the groups. It is a fun way to get involved! All you have to do is announce the latest issue at your meeting, let people know how they can participate by sending in stories, artwork, or jokes. This is a great way to carry the message of AA and to stay sober.

PI/CPC / picpc@aageorgia.org

Cooperation with Professionals

By William B., Chair

Karen A., Co-Chair

Area 16 Public Information/

Cooperation With the Professional Community Committee

We would like to thank all who participated in our meeting and workshop at our Assembly in September. Those new to PICPC work received a gift pack of PICPC/AA literature. We will continue to support the areas that requested additional help. We want our volunteers to continue to get our literature into senior living facilities, DUI schools, colleges and universities, community centers, and health care professionals. The Chair and Co-Chair will be happy to assist any area that would like to submit a 15-second or 30-second public

service announcement (PSA) to a local radio station in their area. Email us at picpc@aageorgia.org.

The National Medical Association held its convention in Atlanta this August. We want to thank the Cooperation with Professionals staff at GSO for inviting Area 16 PICPC to participate. Our volunteers were able to get our literature into the hands of doctors and medical students, along with the opportunity for a network of doctors to view the video, "AA: A Resource for the Health Care Professional," on the aa.org website.

Visit our website at aa.georgia.org for up-to-date AA events and literature.

**Treatment /Accessibilities
treatment@aageorgia.org**

Continuing Growth

By Karen S., Chair

Don K., Co-Chair

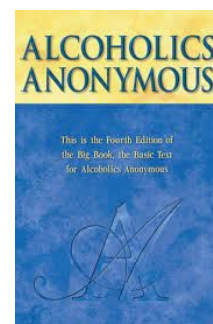
Area 16 Treatment /

Accessibilities Committee

Thanks to all who attended our workshop at the September Assembly. Throughout 2022 we have done lots of work to grow our Bridge the Gap program. If anyone is new to getting involved with carrying the message into treatment facilities, please reach out to us with any questions you may have. Lots of resources are available, including our Treatment workbook. "Frequent contact with newcomers and each other is the bright spot of our lives." (Big Book, page 89).

On the accessibility side our committee, we have been doing a great job making sure the AA message is available to all who have a desire to stop drinking. We also have an accessibility workbook available to assist you. Both workbooks can be downloaded from the GSO website at aa.org and the GSSA office has paper copies as well. Once again, let us hear from you with any suggestions you may have.

My heart is full of gratitude for the beautiful experience that I have had serving as your Area 16 Treatment and Accessibility Chair. It has truly been a pleasure traveling our great state and meeting so many of you. My sobriety has been forever enhanced.



ARCHIVES/ archives@aageorgia.org

Expanding Scope

**By Mark G., Chair
Drew H., Co-Chair
Area 16 Archives Committee**

We have an exciting announcement. We are expanding the scope of the Archives page by offering audio stories we have discovered as we continue to transfer reel-to-reel to digital format.

Two recordings of the very first Delegate from Georgia are now available on the Archives page. The first is her telling her story at Assembly in 1978. The second is a roundtable discussion with her and other early members about AA in the 1940s in Atlanta. This recording is password-protected to ensure anonymity.

We just got back from the National AA Archives Workshop in Little Rock, Arkansas. We brought back audio recordings of every workshop that

was offered. They will be available on the

Archives page at aageorgia.org in the very near future. There is a very enlightening conversation with Billy N. concerning anonymity online.

The entire Archives Committee spent October 1st recording the Hispanic Women in AA conference in Atlanta. That recording — both audio and visual — will be available on the Archives page. It will also be password-protected to preserve anonymity. It was mostly in Spanish; we are looking for someone willing to translate.

On October 1st at 7 p.m. we continued our Zoom series by presenting “Women of AA.” It shines a light on the women who were instrumental in the growth of AA alongside Bill W. and Dr. Bob. Again, this presentation will be available on the Archives page in the future.

CORRECTIONS / corrections@aageorgia.org

Goodbye and Hello

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

As was announced at the recent Assembly, my term as chair will be ending at the end of the year. In 2023, you will have Dawn as your new chair. You will also have a new co-chair, who is very excited about Corrections work and has shown great commitment to service work.

The last two years have given us a great deal of challenges and change. But as I look back over this time, I realize that the things that got us here have kept us here — Recovery, Unity, and Service.

During the past two years alcoholism did not end. We have thousands of alcoholics in our jails and prisons who have not had an AA meeting

during this time. I cannot imagine their pain. Recovery in prison takes outside volunteers taking an action to support the recovery of those who are incarcerated.

Unity means practicing the Twelve Traditions behind the bars — a very tough place. It also means Area 16 staying firm with the program of recovery when asked to change it for an outside reason. Unity is difficult in changing times.

Finally, there is Service. We have many new members who have not been able to fully undertake service due to restrictions. But those restrictions seem to be easing. Service work is now a joint effort of long-timers who have done service partnering with newer members who yearn for service.

Thank you for a wonderful four years!

COMMUNICATIONS communications@aageorgia.org

National Technology Workshop

**By Janie C., Chair
Jaki T., Co-chair
Area 16 Communications Committee**

We were most fortunate to have Damon E. and Nisha P. from our Web Committee attend the National AA Technology Workshop (NAATW) in Seattle in person over the weekend of September 9th-11th; while George K., our Web Administrator, and myself were able to attend sessions remotely.

During our September Area 16 Assembly Workshops, Damon and Nisha made a presentation on the exciting exchange of ideas. For anyone who may have missed our Communications Workshop that Assembly weekend, we have Damon's slides shared on our aageorgia.org website.

I was very excited to see and hear the presentations from our Communications Desk members on the history and projects they are engaged in helping us carry the message.

Our website, aa.org, was launched in December of 1995. Due to ever-increasing daily maintenance needs of aa.org and the evolution of our other platforms like YouTube, LinkedIn, Meeting Guide and Google Ads, the Communications Services Staff Assignment was born in 2017 and became the Communications Services Department in 2019.

Upcoming initiatives for 2022/2023 are focused on streamlining or updating our processes to be more modern, efficient, and nimble. Upcoming initiatives include:

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.

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Alternate Delegate

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ent bodies so their group conscience can be heard, and information can be brought back to the group for consideration.

Quoting from page 175 in the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, "Just as the aim of each AA member is personal sobriety, the aim of our services is to bring sobriety within reach of all who want it." Our services must continue to operate for AA to function and be available for those who want it. The communication lines created by our service structure are imperative to the longevity of our existence. It is an absolute principle that we must give back through Twelfth Step work, and service is a major part of this work. Bill also wrote, "And so, as you embark on your own journey in general service, know that the Fellowship as a whole works because of the time and effort you give it."

Communications

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- Centralized content calendar for AAWS and Grapevine
- GSO podcast planning (with Grapevine)
- Revamping Press Release process (with PI)
- Content creation processes streamlining

Your Area 16 trusted servants still approach all web-based/public facing projects with consideration of our Traditions and Concepts. If you haven't visited, I encourage you to take a few minutes and do so.

Birthday Contributions

District 1 Zone A

Cairo Group

Doug H – September 20, 2014

Sharon H- September 20, 2014

District 8

Baldwin County Group

Amy B – July 11, 1999

I Am Responsible Group

Ken P – September 6, 2006

District 11 Zone A

Walton County Group

Jacque H – July 17, 2019

District 11 Zone B

No Name Nooners Group

Lesa H – July 28, 2009

District 13 Zone A

Chapter 3 Group

Debi K – July 11, 2003

District 13 Zone J

Sunset Group

Susie M – August 2, 1997

Things We Cannot Change

District 7 Zone A

New Southside

Clyde McC

Passed – December 16, 2019

Sobriety – August 14, 1995



Delegate

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ing. The passion of these women to carry the message reflects a strength and determination that is inspirational. Translation was provided for those of us that needed it. The day was filled with presentations on our Traditions and women sharing their experiences in recovery and service. Women traveled from California, Las Vegas, Arizona, and several other states to celebrate. The theme was "United for Those Who Will Come." Veronica T. along with her committee and volunteers did a great job! These women have shown how finding meaning and purpose has transformed their lives while overcoming cultural and language barriers.

Congratulations to Bobby O. and Todd B., our newly elected Secretary and Treasurer. I look forward to serving with you both. I would also like to thank Liz and Kelly for their service to Area 16 these last two years.

As we prepare to move into 2023, I look forward to our Southeast Regional Forum December 2nd-4th in New Orleans. All are welcome to attend. The Forum is a great opportunity to learn more about our General Service Office and other Areas in the U.S./Canada General Service structure.

Presentations on many topics will be given by myself and other Southeast Delegates. I want to wish you and your families a very happy Holiday Season. The gratitude I have to be your Delegate is overwhelming. I look forward to serving with you and for you!

Treasurer

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Manager, Christy G., Past Treasurer, Cheryl F., DCM 3D, and Dawn A., DCM 13G)

Thank you for participating in service and allowing me to be of service at GSSA the last two years.

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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.

69th Georgia Pre-Paid Convention	Dublin	October 21-23
DCM Planning Meeting	Macon	November 5 12:00pm – 3:00pm
Mountain Gratitude Dinner	Hiawassee GA	November 5
Atlanta Intergroup	Atlanta	November 6
6 th National Corrections Conference	Schaumburg, IL	November 11-13
District 13 Cluster Forum 13B Includes (13A, 13B, 13D, 13E, 13F, 13G, 13H, 13I, 13J, 13K)	Atlanta	November 12
District 5 Workshop Series	Eden/Virtual	November 12
Soberfest	Byron	November 18-20
Southeast Regional Forum	New Orleans, La	December 2-4
Atlanta Intergroup	Atlanta	December 4

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) GEORGIA STATE SERVICE ASSEMBLY, TO GET THE GROUP RATE. PLEASE REMEMBER THE CUT OFF DATE IS FOUR WEEKS PRIOR BUT UPTO 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 12 Zone A

Fellowship Group
Quest Church
5001 Gateway Blvd
Grovettown GA 30813
Tuesday 7:00 pm Open Discussion

District 13 Zone E

Beltline Group
Chabad Intown
730 Ponce De Leon Pl NE
Atlanta GA 30306
Sunday 5:00 pm Open Discussion

District 13 Zone F

Benign Anarchy Group
South Bend Commons
1144 Powell Ct SE
Atlanta GA 30316
Thursday 7:00pm Open Discussion

District 13 Zone H

Cabbagetown Newcomers Group
Cabbagetown Community Center
177 Estoria St SE
Atlanta GA 30316
Sunday 8:00 pm Open Beginners

District 13 Zone J

Words of Wisdom – W.O.W. Group
St Benedict's School
4295 Weaver St
Smyrna GA 30080

Friday 6:00pm Open Discussion

District 14 Zone C

Sober on 140 Group
Heritage Fellowship Church
3615 Reinhardt College Parkway
Canton GA 30114
Monday 7:00pm Open Discussion

District 16 Zone B

Serenity Group
First United Methodist Church
280 Broad St
Winder GA 30680
Monday, Wednesday, Friday
12:00 pm Open Big Book

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Georgia State Service Assembly

Business Meeting Minutes

Sunday September 19, 2022

Pending Approval at the January 2023 Business Meeting

Delegate's Sharing

Good morning! My name is Tracy, and I am honored to serve as your Area 16, Panel 72 Delegate. I want to extend a heartfelt welcome to our special guest from GSO. Chris C. currently serving as our Grapevine Publisher. I want to thank Tamera for all she does to facilitate our Assembly with the help of many volunteers. We also have Melissa A. now working in our Area Office assisting Tamera. Lee is taping our Area Assembly for us, including our speaker from last night, our DCM meeting and several of our service workshops. Our Area Secretary and our Area Treasurer will be rotating at the end of this year. Liz and Kelly will be missed. They have served Area 16 and the Office Committee very well. At today's Assembly we will be presented with our nominees for our new Area Secretary, Bobby O. and Treasurer Todd B. Also rotating are our Area Committee Chairpersons, Mark J., Grapevine, Karen S., (Treatment/Accessibilities) and David J. (Corrections) I want to thank them for their service to Area 16.

Updates from the 3rd Quarter Boar

General Service Conference:

- The business of the 72nd General Service Conference concluded with 82 agenda items and nine submitted floor actions, resulting in 35 Advisory Actions and 78 Committee Considerations. All of the 72nd General Service Conference Advisory Actions have been reviewed and their implementation is in process.
- For example, the planning and implementation phases of the second year of Equitable Distribution of Workload (EDW) process is underway. Conference feedback has been reviewed noting what worked well along with those and practices that will benefit from improvement.

Final Report

The digital version of The Final Report of the 72nd General Service Conference is now available on

our Area 16 Website, aageorgia.org. The printed version will be available by the end of October.

Literature: The Literature Desk has been working with the GSO Technology Services department to create a dedicated story submission page for the Fourth Edition of the Spanish *Big Book*, *Alcohólicos Anónimos*, and the "A.A. for the Black and African American Alcoholic" pamphlet update. The tool features easy-to-find writing guidelines and a story upload function, submission is available in English, French and Spanish on the [aa.org](https://www.aa.org/submit-bigbook-spanish-4th) website. <https://www.aa.org/submit-bigbook-spanish-4th>

Fifth Edition

The Literature assignment has already received numerous emails inquiring about the submission of personal stories for the Fifth Edition. Although the desk is not yet accepting story submissions, the Fellowship will be informed, and an announcement will be widely shared through *Box 4-5-9* and through *Conference communication channels*.

<https://www.aa.org/submit-bigbook-english-5th>

Suggestion: Draft up an email outline and send it to yourself. As time permits, fill in your narrative - send to yourself. Repeat. Upon completion, send to GSO.

Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth Edition), translated into plain and simple language:

A progress report regarding, The Advisory Action from the 71st General Service Conference: that, "a draft version of the book Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth Edition), translated into plain and simple language, and accessible and relatable to as wide an audience as possible.

Our Publishing Director and Managing Editor have met twice with "the writer", (Company hired to do the translation)

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since June and plan to provide TABB with selected chapters for review in September. The Publishing Committee looks forward to reviewing a progress report at the October 2022 meeting.

Area 15's Meeting with TABB

(Additional information from a separate meeting)

I was able to participate in a Zoom Meeting with John W., a Non-Trustee Director on AAWS board and also the Chairperson of the TABB Committee. I was invited to attend this meeting to get the most current information on the progress of the TABB Committee. John was able to answer our questions and provide some additional information.

- We were reminded that this is an ongoing process, and that the direction of the Advisory Action is being followed. He was clear that our Publishing Director, Managing Editor, Trustees Literature Committee, and TABB are working together as this moves forward.
- The timeline for the completion of the Draft is projected to be Summer of 2023.
- It would follow that the Delegates that serve on the 74th General Service Conference Literature Committee may be able to view the completed draft to review and make recommendations as they determine.
- John was asked for clarification on whether or not all the Delegates would have a chance to see the draft before its final approval. He said that was unlikely. There are no plans for the draft to be released piecemeal due to the possibility of confidential material being shared.

New Format (Cover)

Implementation has begun on the new **jacket-less** format for the next printings of the *Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous*. *This jacket-less formatting will help reduce backorders, streamline turnaround time, and bring our book to the Fellowship in a timelier manner. This new format will help to better navigate supply-chain disruptions, reduce delivery times as well as expense.*

Big Book

- An order for our standard 4th edition Big Book (with cover) is available now.
- The first printing of the new jacket-less format are scheduled to start printing in mid-October, to be completed November/December 2022.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions

The next print run for the "*Twelve and Twelve*," will have this same jacketless format switch-over and is expected in November or December 2022.

AA Grapevine Upcoming Magazine Topics through 2022:

- September: Young and Sober,
- October: Relapse (prevention), and
- November Gratitude and Fun in Sobriety.

New Grapevine Books, Currently Available:

Fun in Sobriety

Sobriedad Emocional.

AA La Viña Upcoming Magazine Topics (2022):

- Sept. – Oct.: No Matter What
- Nov. – Dec.: La Viña Short Stories

Grapevine Podcasts: Our AA Grapevine podcast program continues to grow - with a new episode each Monday, Don and Sam (our current hosts) interview a member about their experience, strength and hope, in a casual "meeting after the meeting" manner.

- Our podcast downloads topped over 180,000 since it began.

Come check us out, Mondays, at: <https://www.aagrapevine.org/podcast>

Instagram Update, thru June 30, 2022:

- AA Grapevine has 7,868 "followers" and La Viña has 936 "followers."

Treatment / Accessibilities/Loners and Internationalists Meeting:

- Updates to the "*A.A. Guidelines on Accessibilities for All Alcoholics*" are ready for the next printing.
- In response to a Conference Committee consideration, work has also begun on gathering more stories for the pamphlet "*A.A. for the Older Alcoholic*" with a goal to have a broader, more diverse representation of A.A. experience; including diverse ethnicities, cultures, and languages.

Treatment Facilities:

- The Committee reviewed the progress report on military audio interviews provided by its two appointed consultants. A sample

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“Scratch Track” was presented for review to evaluate the sound and quality. They found the audio quality and dual interview style to be effective; however, they agreed that the content could be more focused on the goal of the project.

- The chair appointed a Military Audio Interview Subcommittee. The Subcommittee requested that the consultants utilize broader distribution channels with diverse communication methods including AA Grapevine, WhatsApp, La Viña, and Loners-Internationalists Meeting (LIM).

International Convention - Regional Forums Regional Forums

- Two successful in-person Regional Forums have taken place in Canada already: We look forward to the Pacific Regional Forum slated for Salt Lake City in September, (this weekend) and the Southeast Regional Forum planned for New Orleans in December.
- *The North/South Connections Virtual Special Forum with Remote Communities from North and South America.*
- 532 total registration and 345 peak attendance, the Forum featured a total of eighteen speakers – six each from the US/Canada, Argentina and Chile service structures. The topics highlighted the challenges of language, culture, and geography that members overcame to carry AA’s message of hope and recovery into remote communities.
- *I was able to attend this Forum. I was overwhelmed with the dedication of our members working to overcome these barriers. The forum was a great example of how well a virtual environment works with translators for several different languages available at the same time. The coordination was excellent.*

I was able to connect with the speaker by hearing my language while seeing the presenter (real time).

International Convention:

The first dispatch of the 2025 International Convention Membership Survey was completed in July, with a Fellowship-wide distribution including, but not limited to, Confer-

ence members, Intergroup/Central Offices and International GSOs. The survey link is on various platforms and the www.aa.org and www.aagrapevine.org websites, QR codes are being developed for easy access at AA events, such as our upcoming Regional Forums.

- Originally, it was understood that the question regarding closing the “Big Meeting” with the Lord’s Prayer would be added to the 2025 International Convention Membership Engagement Survey. However, it was decided after the General Service Conference to launch a separate survey dedicated to this specific question.

International/ World Service Meeting

The International desk is currently developing the agenda for the 27th WSM (virtual) in the Fall (the original plan was to meet in-person in Japan). The theme, “*Carrying the Message of A.A. in the Digital Age,*” is aptly chosen as we look forward to sharing on current A.A. lessons, shifts, and practices throughout the world.

Online Groups:

- Virtual Groups continue to grow - currently we have 718 virtual Groups that have listed with GSO and are participating in the US/Canada General Service Structure. Out of those 718 virtual Groups, there are 558 GSRs and 143 alternate GSRs. There are, as of now, 371 meetings in “Area 95” (i.e., miscellaneous file). Group Services, the International Desk, and the Staff Coordinator are communicating with these Online meetings to ascertain whether they would like to be listed as Groups and if they would like to participate in the US/Canada General Service Structure.
- The Conference Committee discussed the request for a progress report from the General Service Board’s Ad Hoc Committee on the Participation of Online Groups in the US and Canada service structure be included as background for the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions in advance of the 73rd General Service Conference. As such, the chair of the Ad Hoc Committee confirmed that this request will be met.

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Technology / Communications / Services:

- The Committee discussed the inclusion of QR codes that refer to www.aa.org on all pamphlets and agreed to continue the discussion at the October 2022 meeting. Some with CPC and Treatment Facilities experience “chimed in” that this would be a novel idea at trade shows and other Public Information-type venues.

Nominating:

April 2023, the positions of Northeast Regional Trustee, Southwest Regional Trustee, and Trustee-at-Large Canada will be up for election.

Publication Operations: Worldwide paper, printing, manufacturing, trucking, and other delivery disruptions continue to beset the supply chain, causing backorders of books and other items throughout the publishing industry. Please contact your Area Offices, Intergroups, and Central Offices for availability.

AA’s “online store” automatically notifies customers of any backorders when ordering.

Corrections:

- In addition to maintaining correspondence with persons in custody, coordinating the Corrections Correspondence Service, and facilitating the approved revisions to the Corrections Kit and Workbook, the Staff Secretary on the assignment gathered information on viable options to be used to update the sign-up forms for Corrections Correspondence Service to be more inclusive.
- Earlier this spring the assignment requested shared experience from the Fellowship on sponsoring A.A. members in custody (or, as we used to say, “behind the walls”).
- The Committee noted the enthusiastic responses from the Fellowship on their experiences regarding sponsoring “inside” AA members. An update was provided on the growing use of tablets in correctional settings and noted that there are over 200,000 tablets providing AA literature inside correctional settings within the US.

Group Services:

- The topic of developing a policy and procedure surrounding AA Group names as it relates to listing Groups is being discussed at

the Staff and Board level, with the thought that any policy regarding listing Groups should emanate from the General Service Conference.

Public Information:

- The Committee discussed the progress report on the GSO Podcast. The Grapevine podcast team provided the GSO team a thorough walk-through of the process and tools our AA Grapevine utilizes to produce its podcast episodes. They discussed a consideration to research the best methods for future podcast episodes to be completed in Spanish and French.
- Two PSA’s, “*Sobriety in A.A.: My Drinking Built a Wall*” and “*Sobriety in A.A.: When Drinking Is No Longer a Party.*” There have been approximately 34,833 English TV airings and 16,956 Spanish TV airings.
<https://www.aa.org/downloadable-videos>.

Finance and Budget:

Although unaudited, mid-year performance are in:

Contributions - Unaudited:

- Year to June 30, 2022 Seventh Tradition Contributions are a little over \$5.0 million. This represents approximately 50% of the 2022 budget of \$10,000,000 (with 50% of the year elapsed).

Literature - Unaudited:

- Year to June 30 gross literature sales are a little over \$5.8 million (rounded). This represents 52% of the 2022 budget of \$11,000,000. But there’s more to the story - our “cost of goods sold” continues to rise because of the increased cost of paper, postage, publishing, and other supply chain-related expenses.

Expense - Unaudited:

- Year to June 30 payroll and benefits expense (for our valued GSO employees) is a little over \$4.7 million, which is 47% of the budget amount with 50% of the year elapsed (so, we’re pretty much on budget).
- Total operating expense year to June 30 is around \$8.2 million (a little more, actually)

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which is also 47% of the budget amount with 50% of the year elapsed.

Overall Deficit or Surplus:

- Our overall operating deficit year to June 30 is around \$114,000 compared to a budgeted deficit of \$797,000. All things considered, we're ahead of budget.

Reserve Fund - Unaudited:

- Our Reserve Fund continues to hover at just under 8 months (7.65 to be more specific). Early estimates are that our Prudent Reserve will decline slightly due to overall increased expenses.

Office Operations:

- From January to June 2022, the team responded to approximately 15,650 email inquiries. During this time, they received about 4,400 phone calls and performed 3,343 Area/District/Group updates. Additionally, 4,607 phone calls were received and routed through our front desk reception. The Mail and Shipping team (of two) managed 22,283 pieces of incoming mail and 10,957 pieces of outgoing mail from January to June 2022.

NetSuite: Area Registrars performed 4,891 Fellowship Connection updates. The team processed and managed 15,750 literature orders during the first six months of 2022.

Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC):

- The Spring 2022 issue of *About A.A.* went out in April. The issue focuses on efforts to reach out to mental health professionals, looks at "A.A. as a Resource Around the World" and introduces three new Class A (non-alcoholic) General Service Board Trustees. Work has already begun on the fall 2022 issue.
- The Committee is also considering a request to remove the pamphlet "A Member's-Eye View of Alcoholics Anonymous" from the CPC Kit contents list. The Committee noted that, while "A Member's-Eye View of Alcoholics Anonymous" pamphlet has endearing language to the Fellowship, it may not be an effective tool to attract professionals (i.e., outward facing cover instead of inward facing). At present, no final decision has been made.

- The LinkedIn page now has 2,036 followers. Several new posts were shared.

Archives Committee:

- A newly revised *Archives Workbook* encompassing about three years of changes, was printed in July. The workbook contains new shared experience from local archivists, revised policies, and other miscellaneous updates. The Spanish and French translations are already in progress.
- The section of the workbook, "Conducting Interviews of A.A. members in American Sign Language (ASL)" in the draft "Archives Guidelines for Conducting Oral Histories." Considering concerns expressed around anonymity and filming full faces when working with A.A. members who are Deaf, the Committee requested that our GSO Archivist, provide more information on this topic from nationally recognized ASL associations.

Thank you for allowing me to serve!

CALL TO ORDER/SERENITY PRAYER

1. Recognition of past Area Officers

2. Approve Minutes from May 2022 Assembly:

Motion to approve: Amber W. (GSR, ODAAT, 15A), seconded by John R. (GSR, Twilight Group, 13F). Motion passes without opposition.

3. Report from the 69th Prepaid Convention: Amy B. Chairperson

On behalf of the 69th Annual Georgia Prepaid committee, we're excited to welcome everyone to Dublin! Please register if you haven't done so already. We currently have 420 people registered; a number we find propitious.

In addition to excellent speakers and workshops, we're pleased to offer you entertainment including morning yoga, open meetings, and night-time entertainment. Friday night will feature Big Book trivia, presented by GCYPAA 2023. For the adventurous, Friday night could include a trip to Haunted Montrose after the speaker meeting. Tickets will be \$27.

Saturday's entertainment will include a morning motorcycle ride in honor of John and Theresa L., fixtures in District 8 and GSSA. The Saturday morning golf tournament will be held at Green Acres in Dud-

ley and is \$50 per person. The Saturday night dinner is pulled chicken or pork, two sides, and banana pudding, all for \$25, catered by Holy Smokes BBQ. Saturday night will conclude with a dance, so bring your best moves.

To pay for any of those activities, please Mail your check made out to the 69TH GA PREPAID to P. O. Box 1448, Milledgeville, GA 31061, or for cash app: \$69thgaprepaid

It's an honor to serve you, and we look forward to seeing you back here in October!

4. Guest Remarks Chris C. Editor of Grapevine Publishing:

I currently serve as the publisher of the Grapevine magazine. That includes LaVina, our online magazine, and books. I want to give you an update on what is happening at Grapevine. We had some real declines during the pandemic. Prior to the pandemic, Grapevine had about 70,000 subscribers, and it has gone down to about 55,000 now. A lot of that is because groups weren't meeting, we were unable to have tables at events, and the International Convention is always good for about 5000-6000 new subscriptions, and we were not able to have that event. We are doing several things to try and bring the subscriptions back up. We are reaching out to expired subscribers and sending offers for them to renew. We are getting back to events. We are working with our GVRs and LVRs to build enthusiasm. LaVina is having a weekly workshop with the LVRs, and there are quarterly meetings with the Grapevine Reps to help them help us. Our online subscriptions have gone up. During the height of the pandemic, we made the online subscriptions available for free. That seemed to bring in a lot of people, and they were able to see what was available with the archives. Even though those numbers are up, it is not nearly enough to make up for the decline in subscriptions. On the other hand, books have done really well. The book "Prayer and Meditation", which came out a year ago, has been a really great seller. It seems that when people come on to buy that book, they buy other books as well. We started a relationship with a company called Ingram. They are a book distributor that distribute to bookstores, both online and brick and mortar. The retail trade in book sales have gone way up. There is an update on the podcasts. Those are now up to 220,000 listens. In 4 months we have gone from 100,000 listens to 220,000, so that is really growing a lot. It is very easy to access at aagrapevine.org/ podcast, or you can ask Siri/Alexa/Google to play the AA Grapevine Podcasts. There is a new podcast every Monday, but once it is up you can always access it. I have been talking to a New York radio host who happens to be in AA. Over the years we have collected 7-minute stories for the YouTube Channel. We are thinking of starting with those and having topical half-hour programs to add to the podcasts. I haven't talked to the board about that yet... The podcasts are great for getting the word out and getting sharing sessions out to people. It is a free service to AA members, but

it is not free to produce, so we ask everyone to subscribe to the magazine, or buy any Grapevine materials. If you have not checked out the YouTube channel, please do. There are history videos, how to videos (how to be a GVR, GSR and other things in the program), and of course people's stories. We are on Instagram now. Today Grapevine has 8200 followers on Instagram, and LaVina has 992. LaVina subscriptions are usually about 10% of what Grapevine is, and that seems to be the case with Instagram too. It's growing every day. All of this, the magazine, the podcasts, the YouTube channel, the sobriety calculator, everything that Grapevine does, I want to bring it to one place. I was going to a strategic planning meeting with the board of the Grapevine last year. I took the subway and noticed that 25 of the 30 people in the car with me were looking at their phone. Nobody had a magazine. Nobody had a book. Nobody had a newspaper. I realized in that moment, if we are not on the phone, we are not going to be reaching people, especially new people. So, we have gotten approval for a \$100,000 investment, over the next several months to develop an app. There are flyers on the Grapevine table in the lobby with an email address on it. If anyone wants to share ideas or has input of what they would like to see this app, please email us, and put "app" in the subject line. We want to have all of grapevine available at your fingertips. You should be able to scroll through the monthly magazine and read an article, go to the archives of every article that was ever published by the Grapevine since 1944, there will be a search engine too, and an audio playlist. I want to have personalized things on the app as well. Possibly being able to put in your sobriety date, and your weekly meetings. So, in the morning, you could open up your app and it would say something like "hello Chris, you have 12,254 days today, and your homegroup meets tonight at 7pm with location". I'd like to see us be able to create a daily spiritual maintenance checklist. If you are committed to praying every morning, going to a meeting, calling your sponsor, and praying at night, or whatever it is for each person, you can create your own checklist. Then at 7pm it might come on and say: "you haven't called your sponsor yet today". I'm dreaming big. Go big or go home! There could be a link to the podcasts right there, you could click on the daily quote, a quick link to the meeting guide (you can see where you are and where the nearest meeting is), a sobriety calculator, a library to collect your favorite stories that you can share later, the Grapevine store, and a link to the YouTube channel. These are some of the ideas that we have so far. We are building it for you, so we want to hear what you would like to see and have. Please send in any ideas that you might have. Maybe a year from now we will have the app. Thank you very much!

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5. Area Office Reports

Alternate Delegate's Report:

Good morning, I'm Tom and I'm an alcoholic. It is my absolute privilege and pleasure to serve as your Area 16 Alternate Delegate. I am so happy to be here with all of you! My report will cover the following topics:

1. What are Cluster Forums?
 2. 2022 Cluster Forums: Theme, Regions, Locations, Timing.
 3. Area 16 Functions List thru 12/31/2022
 4. Prepaid Convention Update: Dublin & Augusta
 5. DCM Outreach Program
1. Cluster Forums are sharing sessions designed to enhance and widen communication among AA members, service and potential service people, and representatives of the Groups, Districts, and Area. A Cluster Forum is not a formal decision-making body, thus no formal actions come about as a result of a Forum. Rather, Cluster Forums are gatherings that provide a unique opportunity to share valuable experience, ask questions, and spark new ideas. There is no registration fee for Cluster Forums. The expenses are covered by the Districts of each Region and through "passing the basket" at each Forum. The locations and agenda for Cluster Forums are worked out jointly by the DCMs of each Forum. The Georgia Cluster Forum Regions are as follows:

REGION	DISTRICTS/ZONES
Southwest	1A, 1B, 2A, 2B
Southeast	3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4, 5A, 5B, 5C, 5D
District 17	Statewide, with Spanish to English translation
West Central	6, 7A, 7B, 10A, 10C, 10D, 11C
East Central	8, 9, 12A, 12B
Northwest	10B, 10E, 14A, 14B, 14C, 14D, 15A, 15B
Northeast	11A, 11B, 16A, 16B, 16C, 16D, 16E, 16F
District 13	13A, 13B, 13D, 13E, 13F, 13G, 13H, 13I, 13J, 13K, 13L

2. The 2022 Cluster Forum Theme is: "A.A. Comes of Age 2.0: Unified in Love and Service", with the subtopics being "How do A.A.s go to any lengths to Recover, Unify and Serve?", "Going Beyond Fear", and "How to Reach Anyone, Anywhere". The four Regions holding Cluster Forums this year are Southwest hosted by 1A, West Central hosted by 10D, Northeast hosted by 11A, and District 13 hosted by 13B. The first three Cluster Forums have already taken place. The Northeast Cluster Forum was held most recently in Loganville. There were just over 100 attendees! District 11A with the help of the other Northeast region Districts did a great job of getting everyone involved. The next Cluster Forum will be the District 13 Cluster Forum in Atlanta on November 12th. Flyers are available here at the Assembly and it will be posted in the Nov/Dec Georgia Message, as well as on our website www.aageorgia.org. All are welcome to attend.
3. The following is the list of events being held in 2022 thru 12/31/2022:

Georgia State Service Assembly	September 16-18, Dublin/OFTC
25th National AA Archives Workshop	September 22-25, N. Little Rock, AR
Workshop of Hispanic Women	October 1, Doraville
Archives Virtual Presentation	October 1, virtual
Atlanta Men's Workshop	October 14-16, Rockeagle
69th Georgia Pre-Paid Convention	October 21-23, Dublin/OFTC
DCM Planning Meeting	November 5, Macon
District 13 Cluster Forum	November 12, Atlanta
District 5 Workshop Series	November 12, Guyton
6th Annual National Corrections Conference	November 11-13, Schaumburg, IL
Big Book Weekend	November 11-13, Smyrna
Soberfest	November 18-20, Byron
Southeast Regional Forum	December 2-4, New Orleans, LA

4. The 69th Prepaid Convention will be held right here in Dublin at the Dubose Porter Center at

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the OFTC, October 21-23, 2022. The 69th Prepaid Convention Committee is organized and ready for everyone to attend. Their excitement and spirit is contagious. The 70th Prepaid Convention will be held in Augusta at the Marriott at the Convention Center, October 20-22, 2023. They are moving forward in their plans. They will begin holding regular planning meetings at the beginning of the year.

5. The focus of the DCM Outreach Committee is to reach out to inactive Districts, to reach out to new DCMs, provide guidance for Cluster Forums, and to strengthen our service structure overall by increasing involvement and participation. The committee meets on a regular basis to discuss strategies and ideas to meet these goals. I would like to introduce the DCM Outreach Committee members and their focused region. Doug Harris, DCM 1A, the Southwest region. Becky Shortland, DCM 5C, the Southeast region. Mike Carroll, DCM 10D, the West Central region. Wanda Paul, DCM 8, the East Central region. Cathy Kott, DCM 15A, the Northwest region. Don Powers, DCM 11A, the Northeast region. Rusty Lavelly, DCM 13A, District 13 region. They are available to give guidance to anyone that has questions about DCM and District responsibilities and communication lines. I would like to personally thank them for their service. They are going above and beyond their normal responsibilities as DCMs to serve our fellowship. Doug, Mike, Cathy, and Rusty will be rotating out of their DCM positions at the end of the year. Please help me in thanking them for their service and wishing them well with their next endeavors in Alcoholics Anonymous.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Alternate Delegate. It is an honor and blessing to serve Alcoholics Anonymous in this capacity. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions at: altdelegate@aageorgia.org. I am also available by phone, 770-286-4546.

Secretary's Report: Liz W.

I thank you all so much for allowing me the privilege of serving as your Area Secretary for the past 2 years.
DCMs 38

Alternate DCMs 41
District Secretary/Treasurer 10
GSRs 175
Alternate GSRs 58
Group Secretary/Treasurer 11
Grapevine Reps 4
Treatment Reps 3
Correction Reps 3
Communications Reps 2
PI/CPC Reps 2
Archives Reps 5
Members-at-Large 38
Total 390

Your DCM received their annual Group update packets this weekend. Please get with your DCM and make sure your group information is up to date.

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. Specific instructions are on the PowerPoint under the Secretary section of the service window.

Meeting Guide App: When you update your information at 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/9:00am – 5:00pm and on Friday 9:00am – 1:00pm. 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.

GSSA BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES The minutes from the GSSA Business Meeting will be available online before the 1st of October. 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@aageorgia.org

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Treasurer's Report: Kelly G.



INCOME REPORTING

	Jan-Aug Actual	Jan-Aug Budgeted	Jan-Aug Difference	2022 Budget
Ordinary Income	127,434.21	124,995.78	2,438.43	187,493.65
Literature	53,379.61	55,666.72	(2,287.11)	83,500.00
Total Income	180,813.82	180,662.50	151.32	270,993.65

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TOTALS

	Jan-Aug Actual	Jan-Aug Budget	2022 Budget
Total Income	180,813.82	180,662.50	270,993.65
Total Expenses	148,760.50	180,988.06	271,482.09
Difference	32,053.32	(325.56)	(488.44)

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EXPENSE REPORTING

	Jan-Aug Actual	Jan-Aug Budget	Jan-Aug Difference	2022 Budget
Committees (Office & Service) Assembly	12,472.18	24,754.67	12,282.49	37,132.00
Operations	22,777.40	27,211.20	4,433.80	40,816.80
Literature	72,609.49	82,447.19	9,837.70	123,670.79
Total Expenses	40,901.43	46,575.00	5,673.57	69,862.50
	148,760.50	180,988.06	32,227.56	271,482.09

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PRUDENT RESERVE FUND

Current Reserve Fund Balance 184,035.12
as of 08/31/2022

Operating Expenses 177,293.80
as of 12/31/2019

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 12.46

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EXPENSES BY COMMITTEE

	Jan-Aug Actual	Jan-Aug Budget	Jan-Aug Difference	2022 Budget
Office Committee	4,037.97	5,025.36	987.39	8,852.00
PI/CPC	452.16	1,549.36	1,097.20	2,294.00
Communications	1,245.51	5,207.40	3,961.89	7,736.00
Treatment	622.32	2,326.72	1,704.40	3,460.00
Corrections	527.86	2,626.68	2,098.82	3,910.00
Archives	1,487.68	2,593.36	1,105.68	3,860.00
Grapevine	468.95	1,700.00	1,231.05	2,520.00
Miscellaneous	3,629.73	3,566.68	(63.05)	4,500.00

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PREPAID CONVENTION

January-August 2022 Contributions 30,149.44

Reserve Fund Balance 191,490.00
as of 08/31/2022

Number of Conventions per Reserve 4.52
based on a 3-year rolling average

3- year rolling average: 42,324.96
2017, 2018, 2019 – no prepaid convention in 2020, virtual in 2021

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Old Business

1. Ad-Hoc Committee Report on the following motion: Claudia R., Chairperson

"Page #18 under Delegate qualifications #5 should be changed to read as follows: Change #5 - Having served a minimum of one (1) year as a D.C.M. or alternate delegate, actively engaged in Group, district, and state affairs- add (see Voting procedures p.29). Page #29 under Voting Procedures-delegate and alternate delegate #3 should be changed to read as follows: #3 The chairperson shall then ask the GSRs for any nominations from the floor. These nominations shall come from past D.C.M.s and the nominees shall meet all qualifications add (see delegate qualifications p. 18)."

Claudia Ritch (Chair) - District 6, Chrys Kirby - District 2B, Cheryl Fisher - District 3D, Marek Stano District - 14D.

The committee met virtually 3 times. Bryan Swartz was originally on the committee but was unable to attend any meetings or communicate via text or phone.

Request: To Study the motion made by Meredith M. (GSR, College Step-study Group, District 6) and 2nd by Patricik G., (GSR Happy Hour Group, District 10A).

Page #18 under Delegate qualifications #5, should it be changed to read as follows - Having served a minimum of one (1) year as a DCM or Alternate Delegate actively engaged in Group District and State affairs. Also, add (see voting procedures pg. 29); and add on Page 29 under voting procedures - Delegate and Alternate Delegate #3 add (see Delegate qualifications pg. 18).

After reviewing the Georgia AA State Service manually, page 18 - Qualifications and Duties of State Officers, Qualifications of the Delegate; page 29 – Election procedures and voting, Delegate and Alternate Delegate; page 27 - Qualifications of DCM; along with a history dating back to the 1980's where the body has nominated and voted into office State Delegates that served as DCM several years prior to being elected as a delegate; **this committee agrees with the above recommendations, for the following reasons:**

It clearly reflects how qualifications have been interpreted and applied in the past. Previously delegates did not hold a position as DCM the immediate year prior to being a delegate. The recommendation clears up the ambiguous part of the current requirement "..... the year preceding election year....."

The footnotes add reference points, making it easier to find information when nominating and voting for the State Delegate.

2. Office Committee Chairperson: Debi K

We all make mistakes. We do the best we can, and we learn from it, and we can come back and correct it. One thing I forgot in May, we had a motion to seek a replacement of the Office Committee Chair from our past Delegates and be appointed by our current Delegate, Tracy. That motion did not pass. I forgot to ask for a minority opinion. However, other mistakes were made in regard to that situation. The Office Chairperson position is listed in the Georgia AA Service Manual as immediate past area Chairperson will rotate into Office Committee Chairperson. The Office Committee treated that as a manual change, and we felt we needed to go through the 3 Assembly process to do that. However, it is not a manual change, because we never discussed taking that position away permanently. We just decided not to replace it at the current time. So, we asked the body for a motion, and we were out of order is asking you for that. As an Office Committee, it is our responsibility to make sure we adhere to the requirements in our area service manual. We have the responsibility and the authority to replace that position with a past Delegate. Concept 10 gives us authority equal to our responsibility. The body is always cooperative. We asked for a motion, and you gave us one. The bottom line is, the Office Committee is here to support our Delegate, and to take care of the Area business office. We need past experience on our committee in order to support our Delegate. So, we decided to have Tracy survey all past Delegates to see who is interested in serving out that position until normal rotation takes over. Tracy has appointed David M., Panel 58 Delegate, who is willing to serve as our Area Office Committee Chair. We do need approval from the GSRs, and we would like to take a vote. Back to the minority opinion. It is important to be consistent with the guidelines and procedures in how we run our Assembly. I don't want anyone to think that missing a minority opinion is ok. Typically, when that happens, we correct it at the next assembly. But for this particular situation, I could ask for the minority opinion, but we have gone ahead and made the decision that it is our responsibility to replace the position. So, it makes the motion that we asked for out of order, and moot.

DCMs were asked to poll their GSRs and the final count was 179 in favor and 1 opposed.

New Business

1. Area 16 use of the 2022 General Service Conference theme and workshop titles for the 2023 Cluster Forums.

AAs Three Legacies: Our Common Solution
General Service: Our Mighty Purpose and

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Rhythm

Presentation topics: Our Common Perils and Common Solution, using AAs literature in carrying the message, fostering a thriving three legacy culture, and practicing out twelve traditions across all group settings.

Simple majority. Vote by show of hands.

Motion passed without opposition.

2. Elections for Secretary and Treasurer – Secretary

(Bobby O) Treasurer (Todd B)

DCMs were asked to poll their GSRs.

Bobby O. was elected with a vote of 181 for and none opposed.

Todd B. was elected with 179 for and none opposed.

3. General Sharing

Alan J. (Alt. GSR, Swainsboro Group, 9) - I make a motion: To increase cluster forums to 8 per year, starting 2024. Motion was seconded. By Richard H. (GSR, Emanuel Jenkins, 9).

Lila E. (GSR, Bainbridge Group, 1A) – I make a motion to decline to consider.

Amber W. (GSR, ODAAT, 15A) – seconded the motion to decline to consider.

This requires a 2/3 majority to pass. 126 voted to decline and 32 did not. Motion to decline to consider passed. Motion was stopped.

Michael F (GSR, No Nipping Nooners, 12A): I make a motion:

p. 28 of the Georgia A.A. Service Manual, item #1 currently reads:

Two (2) to three (3) years of continuous sobriety.

Change to:

Minimum of two (2) years of continuous sobriety.

Pamela B. (GSR, Too Sleepy to Drink, 12A) – I second that motion.

Mike S. (GSR, No Name Nooners, 11B) – I make a motion to decline to consider.

Brittian F. (GSR, Hoboken Group, 3B) – seconded the motion to decline to consider.

This requires a 2/3 majority to pass. 76 voted to decline to consider, 66 did not. Motion to decline to consider does not pass.

Discussion:

Bob (Alt. DCM, 12A) – As it is written, it currently reads 2-3 years of continuous sobriety. So, that would exclude anybody with 4 years and above. As it's written. Changing the wording to "a minimum of 2 years of continuous sobriety" does add that clarity. It erases any confusion about, what if I have 10 years of sobriety, it says 2-3 years. It eliminates all that confusion.

Matt M (GSR, Awakening, 13K) – The current reading allows for more of a suggestion approach. Minimum seems to be discouraging to someone who has somewhere around that 2 year time frame, in my opinion. There is more to sobriety than just length. So, it might discourage people with quality sobriety from participating in general service.

Joe L. (GSR, Friends of Bill W., 1B) – I have one ques-

tion. I was voted is as GSR 2 years ago when I already had 7 years of sobriety. Does that mean that I'm not a GSR? According to that, I am not a GSR. "A minimum of 2 years" is a statement. Period. You have 2 years of sobriety, fine. If you have 10 years of sobriety, fine. It should just say 2 years minimum.

Bobby O. (DCM, 5D) – What I would like to know, from the people that made the motion, is why was GSR singled out? Why Treatment, having 2-3 years continuous sobriety was not included? Why Communications, having 2-3 years continuous sobriety was not included? Why Corrections, having 2-3 years continuous sobriety was not included? Why Archives, having 2-3 years continuous sobriety was not included? Why is GSR being singled out?

Michael F (GSR, No Nipping Nooners, 12A): I don't know if I can make a motion to add all that in there. I'm a GSR, so I was just looking over the qualifications and I noticed this, I just really didn't think about the other ones. But I would add them in there if I could.

After discussion the motion maker, Michael F., and Amber W., who seconded that motion, rescinded the motion so that a new motion could take its place that would cover everything needed.

Beth R. (GSR, Serenity, 13E) – I make a motion:

In the Georgia A.A. Service Manual, under qualifications of the G.S.R, and all Area Committee Chairpersons (except Grapevine)

Currently read:

1. Two (2) to three (3) years of continuous sobriety.

Change to:

1. Minimum of two (2) years of continuous sobriety.

And under DCM Qualifications change:

1. Four (4) to five (5) years of continuous sobriety within the State of Georgia (so that he/she may be eligible for election as Delegate).

Change to:

1. Minimum of Four (4) years of continuous sobriety within the State of Georgia (so that he/she may be eligible for election as Delegate).

Anastasia D. (GSR, Keystone, 16C) – I second that motion
Candice (GSR, Triple L Club, 14A) – Motion to decline to consider.

Matt M (GSR, Awakening, 13K) – I second that motion to decline to consider.

Requires a 2/3 majority to pass. Vote by show of hands. 86 were in favor of the motion to decline, 56 were opposed. Motion to decline to consider does not pass.

Discussion:

Mark J. (Area Chair, Grapevine) – My homegroup is the 6pm in Clarkston. I just wanted to reiterate the suggested piece of this. 13E, kudos for you showing up, I was GSR for that, and the DCM at the time relapsed the weekend of assembly. I got here and was told by the secretary/treasurer that I was the new DCM. I had 2 years and 8 months. It's scary, and those words make it easy to not want to do it, but what Tom and Ernie said to me was

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“you’re it”. These are just suggestions, even at the area level. They are words, but anybody can do it. I stayed sober.

Jessica F. (GSR, Last Call Group, 7B) – I think it is important, that before we make these decisions that require a lot of money and time and effort, that we know what it already says in the manual. The definition of qualification is the action or fact of qualifying or being eligible for something. So, it is already stated in the manual, at least to my understanding that this is a minimum. This makes you eligible. And again, as has already been said, it’s just a suggestion. To add the language and change the wording to say something like minimum when it already says it seems a little redundant.

Eric S. (GSR, Wilmington Island Serenity, 5D) – I think the discussion around whether these are binding requirements, or merely suggestions are missing the intent of the original motion which was to simply clarify the language, which the new recommendation does. And for that reason, I believe we ought to be supporting the clarification.

Joe L. (GSR, Friends of Bill W., 1B) – I’m a simple kind of guy. You know the steps are easy to read. The traditions are easy to read. But it’s hard to work. And that is something I gotta do. I think, as far as the GSR goes, instead of saying 2-3 years, or a minimum of 2 years, the requirement is suggested as 2 years, instead of a minimum. Suggested requirement being 2 years. That makes it good for everybody.

Amber W. (GSR, ODAAT, 15A) – My question is, and I am new to this, does the spirit of suggestion means that this whole book is a suggested thing? Is it the clarity that takes precedence, the clarity to each alcoholic, or is it the clarity that it is a suggestion, or the clarity of the wording? I’m not sure what takes precedence over what. We know it’s a suggestion, but clarity of the wording, is that more important than knowing it’s a suggestion?

Debi K (Chairperson) – We need structure and guidelines, and that is what this manual offers. If we take exception to things in our service manual, we have to vote first. If we are going to change procedure, we get a vote. Group autonomy is very important and well respected in our fellowship, and there are going to be exceptions to everything, but we need guidelines to keep us consistent and keep us on track.

Dennis W. (GSR, Five Forks Sobriety, 16D) – I was looking up what GSO says about GSR, in terms of clarification I agree the clarification should be done, but GSO has all the requirements listed out, and they do recommend 2-3 years for GSR. So, I think we need to strike the minimum from the Georgia manual and just refer to the GSO Manual.

Doug H. (DCM, 1A) – I agree with the statement of the suggestion, but I think at the area level, especially when we talk about the area chairs, the delegates, there needs to be a hard minimum. This, basically, is what started all this. We had somebody that ran for an office, won, and then some-

body went to the manual and said, “this person only had 3 years as an alternate GSR, not as a GSR at any point”, and that person was disqualified. So, making it as clear as possible to eliminate this going forward in the future is important. I know in my area I have GSRs and alternate GSRs that have little sobriety, but they are doing the work for their group, and there is nobody else stepping up. To me that is an area for a suggested time of service. You get into the DCMs, that could oppose too. Some GSRs are, all of a sudden, appointed, and they only have a couple of years to DCM. Have done a good job have done the service. But when you are getting up to Delegate, Alternate Delegate, even some of the committee chairs, it doesn’t make sense to have a suggestion. It needs to have a hard minimum. That’s my opinion.

Unidentified Speaker - People can get drunk at any time. Some of the people that first come into this program are some of the hardest working people there are, and the most eager to do a job like this. If I saw that “minimum” when I first came into this, I would have said oh no, I don’t have it, I can’t do it. Because there is a definite minimum there, and I don’t need to do that, which is what I wanted, but people voted differently. So, the minimum definitely draws me away from it.

Rosa (Member at large) – Just to keep some consistency, there is other language that’s being used for other positions, like the qualifications for the Delegate, or the treasurer, and it doesn’t use the language “minimum”. It uses the language “at least”. I would suggest that we keep some consistency with the language. Also, I don’t know if anybody noticed this, but under duties of the alternate delegate, there is no suggestion for time of sobriety.

Ansley (GSR, Young Winners in Action, 14A, and Alt. DCM) – Coming into this, right now, I have a year and a half sobriety. When I was elected GSR, I had about 3 months. And I needed to get my feet in somewhere, I was ready to jump into the service work. I sweep, I do the stuff. It doesn’t matter. Service work is service work, and where you’re needed. These qualifications, that’s a lot to live up to for somebody that’s new to sobriety. But if I hadn’t been able to jump in and really dig in, I don’t think I’d be where I am today in my sobriety. I think that it should just be a suggestion, and state that clearly.

Unidentified (GSR, Milledgeville Group, 8) – It seems to me that this whole item has kind of grown on a life of its own, when I think the original purpose was just to get rid of that “2-3 years”. Which seems like we couldn’t come up with anything. Because what does “2-3 years” mean anyway? If you want to change the word minimum to recommended or suggested, it seems like it the 2-3 years that’s kind of not all there. Maybe I’m wrong, but Bill W. said it was ok to be wrong.

Pamela B. (GSR, Too Sleepy to Drink, 12A) – Peo-

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ple are kind of hung up on the wording, and I wanted to say, what if we said, “recommended minimum of 2 years”? Because I only have a year and a half, and I have been appointed GSR.

Some groups are smaller than others. We have groups all around the world, and not all groups have the same amount of members. Mine is rather small.

Chris T. (GSR, Early Bird, 5C) – This is just an observation, just for future assemblies maybe to save time. There is only so much time in the day, and our primary purpose is to carry the message to other alcoholics. Rather than looking through the manual to see what we can change, that has no real impact on carrying the message, couldn't we spend that time working steps with other alcoholics, rather than looking for words that we can change, and all the time and resources that are going to go into it. The ad-hoc committee that's got to be assembled, the people on that committee could be taking people through the steps rather than trying to figure out why we should change something that is a suggestion anyway. If sex gives us trouble, we should work with other alcoholics instead. If the manual gives you trouble, go work with other alcoholics.

Patrick G. (GSR, Happy Hour, 10A) – The money spent to change this could help another alcoholic. That's our primary purpose to have our hand be there when someone reaches out. I think we can use that money elsewhere.

Allison B. (GSR, Blue Chips, 11A) – Our Delegate is going to appoint an ad-hoc committee, right? (yes) I make a motion that we table this until the next business meeting, and we adjourn.

Debi K. – We don't need to table it, our manual says that whenever there is a motion that requires a manual change, we appoint an ad-hoc committee, we do not vote on this today. You can ask to call the question so that we can end discussion.

Allison B. (GSR, Blue Chips, 11A) - I would like to call the question.

Debi K. – I was wrong. We call the question when we want to vote. You have already made a motion to table discussion until January.

Amber W. (GSR, ODAAT, 15A) – I second the motion to table discussion until January.

A Simple majority is required to table the motion. Vote by show of hands. Motion passed.

Brandon L. (DCM, 7A) – I also serve in the capacity as advisory for GCYPAA in Georgia. It's the Georgia Conference by Young People in AA. And we do say that it's young at heart, because we don't put an age limit on it. For those of you that may know about GCYPAA, we have kind of been on a hiatus due to COVID. The last conference was in 2019. We are bringing it back this year. It's going to be in December 9-11, 2022, at the Radisson Hotel in Marietta. We hope you will come out and show your support. They are working on getting flyer out to all the different locations and websites. You may have already seen it on the Atlanta Intergroup site, and we are working to get it out to the other sites across the state, but you can also

go to GCYPAA.com, and you can register there as well. We hope you guys will come out. It's going to be a great time. It is kid friendly, it's also young at heart. There are going to be a lot of great speakers from here in Georgia, and we also have some coming from out of state. One is coming all the way from California. We have events planned, games, a dance. We are just happy to see it coming back after the lockdown.

Katie I. (DCM, 12A) – I just want to ask a question. In the ad-hoc committee that will be appointed. On some of these, they need to be strict guidelines. Other ones, they need to be suggested. So, my question is, at the top where it says, “qualifications of the DCM, or qualifications of the GSR”, maybe if we put “suggested qualifications of GSR and suggested qualifications of DCM”. Is that something they can talk about in that ad-hoc committee, or does it have to stick directly to the motion?

Debi K. – They are appointed to study the motion. They may make recommendations that include different wording, but their charge is to study the motion and make a recommendation on the motion.

Denny M. (Alt. DCM, 5C) – I want to make a public amends and apology, to the Hispanic Women in particular, and this body in general for my comments at the last meeting. Anyone who was offended, please let me know what I can do to make it right.

Rusty L. (DCM, 13A) – Over the time that I have been coming to the assembly, I hear comments when we are discussing things about spending out time better helping the alcoholic who is suffering. This is a business meeting. The people who are here in general service are elected to positions by their groups, by their zones, by their districts, by the body in general, to come and do the business of AA. It's what we are here for. I want to help other alcoholics who are sick and suffering too. Part of the way that I do this is by being in general service, and being here, so that we can do the business and have something to offer. It's a little disheartening to have people get up to the microphone and say, “we shouldn't be wasting our time here, we should be out there”, knowing full well that not everybody who says that is not going to immediately go out there and help an alcoholic, they are going to watch a football game. We come here 3 times a year. We don't spend a lot of time doing the business of AA. Changing the manual is part of the business of AA here in Area 16. It's why we are here. Can we please just focus on that, get it done, then we can go watch a football game or help an alcoholic, either one.

Anthony R. (GSR, Easy 123, 16C) – I just wanted to have the experience at the mick, but really, every time I come here to the service organization, I have to appreciate District 17. I really hope that other folks, maybe not Spanish, but others that cannot speak English so well, can do the

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same. Because this is a perfect example of the hand of AA being available to everybody. So, thank you.

John R (DCM, 9) – I would like to suggest to this service body that each one of us look to ourselves. This tool of motion to decline to consider is being used to go take a lunch break, in my opinion. We are not discussing things that relate to our service work, because we want to go eat. That's just my opinion, and I believe this is the correct time to say that in general sharing. This service body needs to really consider what we are about. Thank you for letting me share that.

Veronica (17) – I am very excited and very happy to tell you that on October 1, 2022, we will celebrate our first workshop of Hispanic women. The Hispanic Women of Alcoholics Anonymous in Georgia invite you to come on October 1st. We also have the committee from New York coming. They contacted us, because they want us to write about our experience for the 4th Edition of the Big Book of "Alcoholicos Anonimos". This workshop will be in Spanish, but there will be translation into English. All women in AA are invited to attend the workshop. I ask that all GSRs bring this information back to their homegroups and tell them about this event. We will be serving breakfast and lunch, but more importantly, we will have spiritual food. Thank you so much and we hope to see you there.

Wally L. (Alt. DCM, 13A) – I just had an idea that I wanted to share with Grapevine. I wish Chris was still here. I was driving to Florida to visit my sister, and on the way down there, I have Sirius satellite radio, and I was listening to it, and I went through every single channel on Sirius XM, and there is nothing on Sirius XM for recovery. And I thought, wouldn't it be great to have a recovery channel on Sirius XM? And to listen to him talking about the podcasts and stuff, I thought, wouldn't it be cool if I could go to Sirius XM and listen to his podcasts? If I could listen to meetings. If I could listen to, whatever. Instead, I got Joe and Charlie out, which worked out great, but I thought it was a great idea and I just wanted to throw that out there.

Thomas – I am the Grapevine Rep for my homegroup in district 13. I realize there is a lot of stuff going on here today. This is my 20th assembly being here today. I have been a GSR for 2 years. I've been in treatment for 4 years, and if I had to do it all over again, I'd do the same thing, but I'd do it for the rest of my life. I want to commend the ad-hoc committee, because they do their darndest and their hardest to make sure that this stuff that we are here today for they do their darndest to make sure that it gets passed. Because we work out butts off to make sure you GSRs and you DCMs are here to see that it happens.

Mark J. (Area Chair, Grapevine) – Great question over there. If you have android play, Siri or Google Play, you can say one of three things. You can say, "Hey Google, play A and A podcast". Because they still think we are teaching

classes. You can say, "Hey Siri, play AA Grapevine Podcast", or you can say, "Alexa, play AA Grapevine Podcast", and you can get that in your car, so Sirius XM, maybe not there yet, but Apple, Android, and Alexa, she's got you.

Debi recognized outgoing trusted servants and thanked them for their service.

4. Adjourn with Lord's Prayer (Spanish & English)

Meredith (GSR, College Step Study Group, 6) – I make a motion to adjourn.

Jamie (GSR, Common Solution Group, 14C) – I second the motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted
Liz W.
Area 16 Secretary



**GA District 13
Cluster Forum**



**Nov 12, 2022
9 AM – 1 PM**

**AA Comes of Age 2.0
Unified in Love & Service
ALL Are Welcome**

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Registration begins at 9 AM

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Keylor H., Augusta, Georgia

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