

DELEGATE / delegate@aageorgia.org

Confidential for members
November / December 2023
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STILL AMAZED

By Tracy M.

Area 16 Delegate

As I write my last article for the Message it strikes me how amazing Alcoholics Anonymous is. The prayer warriors that prayed us into existence, the seconds and inches along the way, our cofounders and trusted servants that never gave up. It's not just our members that feel that way.

In 1998 Time magazine was preparing for the 21st century. They gathered a committee of the smartest history professors in the world. They told the committee; we want to publish a book in 2000 about the 80 days that changed the world. We need you to look from January the 1st 1900 until today to identify the 80 most important days of the century. When

you open the book, "The 80 Days That Changed the World", 13 stories in, you land on Mother's Day 1935 where it says "on this day a broken stockbroker from New York met a broken surgeon from Akron and from that formed the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. Since then, millions of lives have been changed and not only have Alcoholics been helped, but they've shared their solution with people who have other problems." Do I treat Alcoholics Anonymous like it's beginning is one of the 80 most important days of the 20th century? Am I really doing my part for Alcoholics Anonymous? Do we really treat it with the respect it deserves?

When you go to your Home Group's business meetings, I'm sure what we do at Assembly is very well received when it's reported. I'm sure they will make mo-

tions to extend your business meetings by a couple of hours to have special meetings to hear the report from the Georgia State Service Assembly. LOL. An important part of being a servant in Alcoholics Anonymous is respecting all of AA for what they do. Everybody in Alcoholics Anonymous has a gift. We don't all have the same gifts. Some people can drive people to and from meetings, working miracles in the front seats of those cars. Some have been answering phones at Area offices and Inter-

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ALTERNATE DELEGATE / altdelegate@aageorgia.org

Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern

By Tom B.

Area 16 Alternate Delegate

According to Bill W.'s essay on leadership, he describes the needed attributes among our leaders at all levels of service as tolerance, responsibility, flexibility, and vision. During the past two years while serving as your Alternate Delegate, I have referred to this essay time and time again as a guiding light for my actions in service. I would like to leave you with the following excerpts from Bill W.'s article, "Leadership in A.A.: Ever a Vital Need". His article was published in the April 1959 Grapevine and can also be found in Twelve Concepts for

World Service in Concept IX, page C29, 2021-2023 edition.

Somewhere in our literature there is a statement to this effect: "Our leaders do not drive by mandate: they lead by example." In effect we are saying to them, "Act for us, but don't boss us."

Therefore, a leader in AA service is a man (or woman) who can personally put principles, plans and policies into such dedicated and effective action that the rest of us want to back him up and help him with his job. When a leader power-drives us badly, we rebel; but when he too meekly becomes an order-taker and he exercises no judgment of his own--well, he really isn't a leader at all.

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Good leadership originates plans, policies and ideas for the improvement of our fellowship and its services. But in new and important matters, it will nevertheless consult widely before taking decisions and actions. Good leadership will also remember that a fine plan or idea can come from anybody, anywhere. Consequently, good leadership will often discard its own cherished plans for others that are better, and it will give credit to the source.

Good leadership never passes the buck. Once assured that it has, or can, obtain sufficient general backing, it freely takes decisions and puts them into

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SECRETARY / secretary@aageorgia.org

Where My Willingness Led Me

By Kirby M.

Area 16 Secretary

There is nothing quite like the buzz I get after spending the entire weekend with four hundred of my closest friends at the Area 16 Service Assembly. Only within the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous can one find such deep-rooted comradery, heartfelt laughter, and civil discourse (though at times, not so civil discourse, ha!). But most of all, only within the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous can one find what I have come to know as the epitome of absolute unity when all is said and done. No-where else have I been a party to a fellowship, so driven in their efforts, that they would be willing to place their egos and self-seeking aside to reach their common goal of helping the next alcoholic who still suffers. Just being a part of something so much bigger than myself, and only a small piece in

this beautiful and divine fellowship, is a truly humbling experience.

When I was nominated for the area secretary position in May of this year, I couldn't have imagined a greater honor. If someone were to have told me at the start of my recovery journey that this is where saying yes would lead me, that I would be blessed to serve my fellow alcoholics at such a capacity, I probably wouldn't have believed them (or I would have simply run the other way!).

Very early on in my battle for sobriety, I was fortunate enough to have a sponsor who drug me to every intergroup, cluster forum, district meeting, assembly, and eat and speak she could find. She told me that the only way I was going to make it was if I surrendered to something bigger than myself. She taught me

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TREASURER / treasurer@aageorgia.org

Letting Go of Character Defects

By Todd B.

Area 16 Treasurer

I am glad to welcome Kirby and Liz to the committee. Being Secretary and Treasurer was a wild ride at moments and came with some benefits. I had an excuse for being late turning in my articles to the Georgia Message. Now it is just pure character defects. Embarrassing. No excuses going forward. I will do better!

I can't believe it is already October and we will be at the 70th Georgia Pre-Paid Convention in a couple of weeks. I am looking forward to seeing everyone there and enjoying Augusta. I hope it is being announced at your home groups and zones. At the DCM

meeting in Dublin, we discussed what the future of the Pre-Paid Conference could look like. I hope that the economy will settle down and the price increases will slow soon.

As we looked ahead at the Pre-Paid Convention for 2026, we saw a much different financial outlook for our Pre-Paid prudent reserve fund. Things could look different, and there is a chance that the Pre-Paid will maintain its unique status as "free" to the attendees. However, based on our recent discussions, the Area 16 groups will need to raise the amount in the prudent reserve probably for the foreseeable future to keep it the status quo.

My goal is to see the percent-

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SELF-SUPPORT

GROUP CONTRIBUTION PLANS TO AA SERVICE ENTITIES

"To help support AA's essential services, the General Service Conference suggests that individual groups, *through an informed group conscience*, adopt a specific contribution plan tailored to meet the group's financial situation."

-Self-Support: Where Money & Spirituality Mix

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

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

Group Conscience Decision

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

Sample Distribution

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

Mailing Addresses:
GSSA (State Office) & Prepaid Convention
 P.O. Box 68
 Macon, GA 31202

GSO (General Service Office)
 P.O. Box 2407
 James A. Farley Station
 New York, NY 10116-2407

If you need additional information, please call 478-745-2588 or visit aageorgia.org

GRAPEVINE / La Viña / grapevine@aageorgia.org

The Grapevine and La Vina Apps are Now Available

Mitch M., Chair

Haley W., Co-Chair

Amparo M., La Viña Chair

Area 16 Grapevine / La Viña Committee

The Apps FAQs

What does the Grapevine and La Viña app offer?

With the new Grapevine and La Viña App, you will be able to read the latest magazine each month, explore the Grapevine or La Viña archive, send stories to friends, listen to the audio of each article in the magazine, listen to the podcast, enter your own sobriety date for a daily calculation, build your own spiritual maintenance daily checklist, and much more.

Do I have to pay to download the Apps?

You can download the Apps for free from the Apple Store or Google Play Store. *Please note that to access whole articles and the App's features you have to purchase a Digital*

or Complete subscription to Grapevine or La Viña.

How do I sign up for the digital subscription?

You can purchase your subscription through the App, the Grapevine store (www.aagrapevine.org/store) or La Viña store (www.aalavina.org/tienda).

What is the cost of the subscription to the App?

For the Grapevine the digital subscription has a cost of:

\$2.99 per month

\$29.99 yearly

For La Viña the digital subscription has a cost of:

\$2.99 bimonthly (iOS) / \$1.49 per month (Android)

\$14.99 yearly

For more information visit

Grapevine: www.aagrapevine.org/store/subscriptions

La Viña: www.aalavina.org/tienda/subcripciones

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PI/CPC / picpc@aageorgia.org

Connecting and Sharing in the Community

By William B., Chair

Karen A., Co-Chair

Area 16 Public Information/

Cooperation With the Professional Community Committee

In August, we did a combined workshop in Lawrenceville with the Treatment and Accessibilities Committee. This combined workshop was a first for Area 16 and was with our spirit of cooperation. We want to thank all those who attended. By combining the workshop, we were able to show how connected our two communities are, how we work with each other, and touch upon attraction rather than promotion.

Before the end of the year, we hope to have three new PI Combined Service Cards from our General Service Office (GSO) and one CPC Combined Service Card. The cards will be in a digital format with a space for local information and a QR Code but will also be available for printing. The

one that Area 16 has available was introduced to our assembly in May of 2023. It has been PI/CPC's most requested item both inside and outside of AA.

We would like to thank the DCM in15B for contacting a local radio station, the submission of a Public Service Announcement (PSA) and supplying a hospital in his area with AA literature and service cards. We also thank the PI/CPC group representatives and volunteers from District 16E for their table/display at Mobilize Recovery Across Georgia.

For those interested in PI/CPC work, visit our website at aageorgia.org. From the top of the main page, click committees, then PI or CPC and the workbooks are available online. We like to hear from our district and group representatives so we can share their experiences with others. Congratulations to all of Area 16 who are rotating in and best wishes to all who are rotating out.

Treatment /Accessibilities treatment@aageorgia.org

Navigating Barriers

By Don K., Chair

Claire B., Co-Chair

Area 16 Treatment /

Accessibilities Committee

How can we make sure that A.A. is accessible to every person with a drinking problem who wants help? That problem is the focus of the Area 16 Accessibilities Committee. Thankfully, we don't have to reinvent the wheel in every district and meeting. The GSO has compiled the shared experiences of the folks who came before us in a workbook and other materials that are available as pdf files on the aa.org website by clicking Service Committees under the Inside AA tab and choosing the Accessibilities Committee.

The first suggestion in the workbook is to form a district committee and hold regular meetings to identify and address possible barriers to attendance at established meetings. We want to make sure that wheelchair accessibility, childcare, and transportation accommodations are added to local meeting lists so that members and newcomers can easily see availability. We may not be able to provide childcare at every meeting, but we can provide it at some meetings and direct those in need by using the list. We can also help coordinate transportation by creating a list of volunteers to provide transportation. If you would like to get involved in this service area, contact your district treatment/accessibilities representative. If there isn't a district rep for your district, think about offering to serve.

The treatment side of our committee carries the AA message to alcoholics in hospitals, treatment facilities, homeless shelters, assisted-living facilities, sober houses, and other institutions where we may find alcoholics. There are many ways to carry the message including taking meetings into the facility, educating staff about AA, providing literature, and establishing a Bridge the Gap program. District committees always need more members to serve in this area as well.

COMMUNICATIONS / communications@aageorgia.org

Welcome to our new Web Committee Chair and Alternate Chair

By Janie C., Chair
Amy B., Co-chair
Area 16 Communications Committee

Please extend a warm welcome to our new Web Committee Chair, Robin I., and Alternate Chair, Lon P. We are so fortunate to have these two qualified and dedicated trusted servants volunteer their time and energy to our Area 16 website.

However, there is room for more volunteers! Although Web Committee meetings are open to any AA member to attend and participate, there are a few positions that hold official terms of service in addition to the Communications Chair and Co-Chair. These include our Webmaster, various web developers, a current GSR, a past GSR, a current DCM, a past DCM, our Area Secretary, and our PI/CPC Chair.

The voices and perspectives of the GSR and DCM positions are so important to the work of the Web Committee, and currently ***all four of those positions are open.*** The committee meets the first Monday of each month at 6:00 PM via Google meet. The Web Committee also holds three in person meetings per year during the January, May, and September assemblies at 10:00 AM on Saturday. This meeting is open to any members who wish to attend. Perhaps one of these roles could be your next service position?

For more information on how you can participate in the Web Committee in any of those roles, please feel free to contact Janie C., Communications Chair (communications@aageorgia.org), or Amy B., Communications Co-Chair (cocommunications@aageorgia.org).

CORRECTIONS / corrections@aageorgia.org

Coins for Cons (Pink Cans)

By Dawn U., Chair
Brad R., Co-Chair
Area 16 Corrections Committee

I have had several people ask, "What is The Pink Can?". Corrections committees throughout the service structure prioritize the raising of money for literature. One idea that has become popular in many areas is having a pink donation can prominently displayed on group literature tables. The money is then used to get our literature in prisons.

The concept originated (as far as we know) in the Northern California area in 1957. The area Hospital and Institutions committee (H&I) was rapidly expanding its work in prisons, and the need for literature was increasing to the point where it could no longer be met by individual contributions. Someone came up

with the idea of passing around a can at group meetings, explaining that the pennies, dimes, and quarters dropped in the can were intended for alcoholics in prisons and hospitals. How to make the cans stand out? Paint them pink. The idea caught on, and eventually groups throughout North America began displaying pink cans on their literature tables. In Northern California, the original one-quart paint cans have been replaced by plastic containers with screw-on, slotted tops.

You can pick up a Pink Can at the January assembly at the corrections table for your group. Corrections in Georgia has been able to supply \$3200.00 since January in conference approved literature to people in custody. The prison and jail facilities are still slowly opening due to staff shortages and getting

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ARCHIVES / archives@aageorgia.org

Video Big Book

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

This is my last article as your Archives Chair. I want to thank everyone that has supported Drew and I for the last two years. We have tried to create a series of presentations that, if used in conjunction with the steps, will bring the Big Book to life. I believe we have accomplished that.

We wanted to give each and every member a new tool for their toolbox. We believe the stories of those who created this program can effectively carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. I know that Drew will carry on by continuing to bring new presentations. I look forward to sharing our message in the coming years.

I would ask you to continue to support Drew in the next two years. I am confident I am leaving the Archives Committee in very capable hands. Please give him the same support as the new Archives Chair as you have given to me.

THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA IS PUBLISHED BY AREA 16

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Alternate Delegate Continued from Page 1

action forthwith, provided of course that such actions be within the framework of its defined authority and responsibility.

Another qualification for leadership is "give and take"--the ability to compromise cheerfully whenever a proper compromise can cause a situation to progress in what appears to be the right direction. Compromise comes hard to us "all or nothing drunks." Nevertheless, we must never lose sight of the fact that progress is nearly always characterized by a series of improving compromises. We cannot, however, compromise always. Now and then it is truly necessary to stick flat-footed to one's conviction about an issue until it is settled. These are situations for keen timing and a most careful discrimination as to which course to take.

Leadership is often called upon to face heavy and sometimes long-continued criticism. This is an acid test. There are always the constructive critics, our friends indeed. We ought never fail to give them a careful hearing. We should be willing to let them modify our opinions or change them completely. Often, too, we shall have to disagree and then stand fast without losing their friendship.

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Secretary Continued from Page 2

to plant myself firmly in the center of AA, to find ways in which I could be of service to others whether that meant putting out the sign in front of our clubhouse or simply picking up cigarette butts. She taught me that to be of service was to be free from the bondage of self. Most of all, she taught me to view service work as the lifeline that it is, the anchor which keeps me grounded and centered amidst this joyous chaos that has become my new life. For that I will be forever grateful.

Words cannot express how excited I am for this season in my recovery. I am so honored, scared, and humbled to be of service to all of you as the Area 16 Secretary.

I am willing and I pray that I will never forget where willingness has led me.

Publisher /
[publisher@](mailto:publisher@ageorgia.org)
ageorgia.org

Behind-The-Scenes Service **By Thomas P.,** **Area 16 Publisher**

Over the past three years, I have had the honor & privilege to serve our fantastic area as Publisher.

One of the significant gifts that has been the ability to serve behind the scenes has genuinely been a growth opportunity I never expected to receive.

If there is anything you would like to have included in The Georgia Message or suggestions to improve our incredible bi-monthly that so many have a significant part in making happen, please reach out to me via email at publisher@ageorgia.org. I'll be more than happy to look at its feasibility and let you know.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve our fantastic fellowship/ Area.

Delegate Continued from Page 1

groups who can talk someone off the ledge.

If you're a servant in General Service in Alcoholics Anonymous the challenge is to be able to go back to the frontlines of Alcoholics Anonymous and speak in a way that resonates with their experience. Not to preach to them or dictate to them but honor their work (boots on the ground) in Alcoholics Anonymous and let them see the connection between a Home Group, a District, an Area, and The General Service Office. All are super important.

One of the great things about working with people and taking them through our big book is that you get to see the results, good or bad. The work I have done at my kitchen table with another Alcoholic has given me that gift time and time again. It is rewarding to see someone's life change right before your eyes.

With our commitments in General Service, we don't always get to see the results for the alcoholic that is benefiting from the work we do. It might be the alcoholic in a remote community that we reach with our message, our members in correctional facilities when they receive AA literature on tablets, and the lonely alcoholic in the middle of the night that hears that PSA that hits home.

It has been an honor and a privilege to Serve Area 16 as your Panel 72 Delegate. I have felt the weight and responsibility of two General Service Conferences. I will probably always see Alcoholics Anonymous with a deeper respect because of the work that goes into carrying our message. We are never done finding new and more effective ways of reaching out to those who need our help. I am forever grateful to the God of my understanding and Area 16 for the experience of a lifetime. Thank you for allowing me to serve!

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.

DCM Planning Meeting	Macon	November 4 1:00pm – 3:00pm
Atlanta Intergroup	Virtual	November 5
7th National Corrections Conference	Oklahoma City, OK	November 10-13
District 17 Cluster Forum	Smyrna	November 11
SSAASA 7	Orlando, FL	November 17-19
SoberFest	Byron	November 17-19
Atlanta Intergroup	Virtual	December 3

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 PRIOR IF ROOMS ARE STILL AVAILABLE. ROOM RESERVATION COMES WITH FREE WI-FI & FREE BREAKFAST.

The message article deadline for January/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 68, Macon, Ga. 31202**

New Groups

District 13 Zone B

AA Simply Sober in Hotlanta Group
Virtual – Atlanta
Sunday, Monday and Wednesday
8:00 p.m.
Open, LBGTQ

District 13 Zone H

Candler @ 6 Group
Candler Park
1500 McLendon Ave NE
Atlanta GA 30307
Sunday, Monday and Wednesday
6:00 p.m. Open

District 16 Zone C

A New Freedom Big Book Step
Study Group
Serenity House
4297 Buford Dr 1D
Buford GA 30518
Thursday 7:30 p.m. Open Big Book

District 16 Zone F

Lake Hartwell AA Group
79er Club
296 Ulyanovsk Rd
Hartwell GA 30643
Thursday 5:30 p.m. Open Beginner
Young People Discussion

District 17

Misericordia Group
3 Leake St Suite H
Cartersville GA 30120
Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and
Saturday 8:00 p.m. Open Spanish



Birthday Contributions

Unknown Group or District
Randy H. – April 19, 1998

District 11 Zone A
Walton County Group
Anonymous - July 17, 2019

District 8
I Am Responsible Group
Ken P. - September 6, 2006

District 1 Zone A
Cairo Group
Doug H. – September 20, 2014
Sharon H. – September 20, 2014



THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA

Treasurer

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age rates of groups contributing increase at every assembly. My request for you, Georgia AA's, is to ask your homegroup if they have contributed to our Pre-Paid Convention.

Has your home group contributed to Pre-Paid? I am not asking for an amount. It is up to each home group to decide the amount they will contribute. Feel free to send an email to me if your group has any questions. I hope we can improve the percentage of groups contributing again in January. I will monitor it and give a report to the DCMs at the planning meeting in November when they approve or disapprove of the 2024 budget.

I married Alice in 2018. I began to follow her lead in giving. To me giving was an area where I suffered from magical thinking: where I think the grass is greener on the other side or tomorrow will be better. I always had an excuse to not give today or now. When I started giving my best in marriage, at church, in AA, and at work, the benefits came back ten-fold. It is an amazing experience. I am on a new footing in this area of life. I am really seeing the more I give, the more I receive. A sponsee taught me that. Amazing how AA works.

I will see you in Augusta. Thank you for the opportunity to grow.

Grapevine

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Yes, you can connect to the Grapevine or La Viña store through the App.

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Google Play: <https://play.google.com/store/apps>

Who can I talk to if I need help?

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Spanish: (800) 640-8781 USA, +1 (570) 567-0437 International

French: (212) 870-3456

For all subscription-related inquiries, including new subscriptions, address changes, and other questions,

email customerservice@aagrapevine.org or preguntas@aagrapevine.org for Spanish.

More FAQ: <https://www.aagrapevine.org/gvr-resources>

La Viña Committee

lavina@aageorgia.org

La Viña Updates

Amparo M., La Viña Chair

Area 16 Grapevine / La Viña Committee

Hola compañer@s,

Les saluda su representante de La Viña de GA. Quiero agradecer todo el apoyo que me han brindado desde que empecé. Y les quiero recordar que las nuevas aplicaciones de la viña y grapevine ya están disponibles para descargar a su teléfono inteligente. En la aplicación pueden encontrar el calendario de sobriedad, la cita diaria, historias de personas como nosotros, y mucho más todo al alcance de su mano. ¡Anímense y descárgala hoy gratuitamente! Recuerde de enviar la foto de su grupo en la página web puede encontrar más información como hacerlo, solo vaya AAlavina.org. Recuerde que ya salió el último libro de la viña "Oración y Meditación", también la nueva revista "Tocando Fondo". Y recuerde que en la viña hay bastantes recursos y varias formas de unirse al servicio y de llevar el mensaje, yo estoy aquí para ayudarle en lo que yo pueda. Mi correo electrónico es lavina@aageorgia.org, Hasta la próxima, ¡felices 24 horas!

SI LAS PAREDES HABLARAN

Las reuniones de AA se pueden llevar a cabo casi en cualquier lugar. Envía fotos de su espacio de reunión. Asegúrate de no comprometer el anonimato o expresar afiliación a alguna organización fuera de AA.



Este es el Nuevo Libro!

Corrections

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badge approvals. If someone in custody wants an AA Big book, they can write to our central office, and we will send them one. If you carry the message into a facility and need AA literature to carry inside, please reach out to corrections@aageorgia.org

The National Corrections conference is November 10-12, 2023 in Oklahoma City, OK. We also want to hold our first Corrections workshop for Georgia. Please let us know if your district is inter-

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.

THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA

Georgia State Service Assembly

Business Meeting Minutes

Sunday, September 17, 2023

Pending Approval at the January 2024 Business Meeting

Call to Order/Serenity Prayer: Area 16 Business Meeting: Opened by Debi K, Area Chair

1. Delegates Sharing: Tracy M Area 16 gave Delegates report
2. Recognition of past Area Officers
3. Approve minutes from January 2023 Business Meeting
 - a. Show of hands approval
4. Report: 70th Georgia Pre-Paid Convention 2023 Augusta
 - a. Pre-paid report given by Fran
5. Guest Remarks: Jimmy D. Dallas, TX, 2022 Interim General Service Board Chair, past Southeast Regional Trustee, & past area delegate.
6. Area Officer reports
 - a. Alternate Delegate report given by Tom B.
 - b. Secretary report given by Todd B.
 - 1) In attendance: 40 DCM's, 20 Alt. DCM's, 3 District Secretary/Treasurers, 211 GSR's, 67 Alt. GSR's, 14 Group Secretary/Treasurers, 5 Grapevine Reps, 4 Treatment Facilities Reps, 3 Correctional Facilities Reps, 3 Communications Reps, 2 PI/CPC Reps, 5 Archives Reps, 54 members.

- a. Treasurer report given by Todd B.
Favorable outcome of \$1,045.49 income
(Please see table below)

7. Delegate's Report

Good morning,

My name is Tracy, and I am an alcoholic. I want to thank everyone for their dedication and service to Area 16. Special thanks to Tamera for all her hard work. These Assemblies require planning and coordination. I think of the swan swimming on the lake. This all looks smooth on the surface. Beneath the surface there is a lot of work being done to keep it afloat. I want to thank the FLTC for always providing us with great support with anything we need during our Assembly Weekend. I am also very grateful to have our special guest, Jimmy Dean, with us this weekend. Please don't forget to come by Lee's table before you leave. He will have recordings from our speaker last night, the Business Meeting today, and other recordings as well.

73rd General Service Conference Reports are available for you today. The report is also available on the aa.org website.

Since our May Assembly we have had 2

April 30, 2023 NET Income Summary			
Item	30-Aug-23	Budget	Difference
Total Income	\$ 191,631.92	\$ 184,552.44	\$ 7,079.48
Total Expenses	\$ 190,586.43	\$ 202,882.62	\$ (12,296.19)
Net Income (Favorable)	\$ 1,045.49	\$ (18,330.18)	\$ (5,216.71)

Treasurer's Report Table

THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA

Cluster Forums in Area 16. I want to thank the Districts in our Southeast Region and our Northwest Region for their hard work. Both forums gave great presentations. I saw members that had never been to an Assembly or Forum getting involved and being of service. The hospitality, food, and fellowship were outstanding. Our last Cluster Forum for the year will be held by District 17 in Smyrna on November 11.

SSAASA is scheduled for November 17th thru 19th. Tom and I will be attending. This service assembly is a great opportunity to encourage service work. You can go to SSAASA7.org for more information and to register.

Area 16 Feedback

ROUND ROBIN REPORT

Tracy Miller

Delegate

Panel 72 Area 16

Area 16 held a Round Robin Forum at our May 2023 Assembly with the focus being communication from our Area, to provide feedback on the numerous Agenda Items that have been submitted related to the changes approved by the 2021 General Service Conference that follow, noting the importance and interest of these Advisory Actions to the Fellowship.

Advisory Actions from the 71st General Service Conference:

A revision be made to page 117 in the book, 12 steps and 12 traditions, replacing the phrase “opposite sex” with the word “partner” as follows, and that a footnote be added to provide context to the change as it relates to inclusivity:

The text on page 117 which currently reads:

“Nearly every sound human being experiences, at some time in life, a compelling desire to find a mate of the opposite sex with whom the fullest possible union can be made – spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical. This mighty urge is the root of great human accomplishments, a creative energy that deeply influences our lives. God fashioned us that way...”

Be revised to read:

Nearly every sound human being experiences, at some time in life, a compelling desire to find a partner with whom the fullest possible union can be made – spiritual mental emotional and physical this mighty urge is the root of great human accomplishments, a creative energy that deeply influences our lives. God fashioned us that way...”

The sentence which includes the phrase “lustful enough to rape” in paragraph one on page 66 in the chapter “Step Six”



Scan to go to:

aageorgia.org/georgia-state-service-assembly.html

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of the book, “12 Steps and 12 Traditions”, be revised to refer to the Seven Deadly Sins without specific mention of examples that are severe in nature as follows, and that The text on page 66 which currently reads:

” No one wants to be angry enough to murder, lustful enough to rape, gluttonous enough to ruin his health.”

Be revised to read:

“No one wants to commit the deadly sins of anger, lust, or gluttony.

- In response to these Advisory Actions the Fellowship submitted 34 PAI’S to the 72nd General Service Conference referring to the changes to the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.

- The Items were reviewed by the Trustees Committee on Literature. The Committee Took No Action:

- The Trustees’ Literature Committee requested that the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature discuss changes to the text of the book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions directed by the 71st General Service Conference.

- At the 72nd General Service Conference the Conference Literature Committee took no action. The Committee noted that there does not appear to be a consensus on the changes among A. A. members at the local level.

- Floor Action:

It was recommended that the Advisory Actions from Panel 71: in the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, be returned to the original text. Decline to consider.

In response the Fellowship submitted 28 PAI’S on the same Advisory Actions to the 73rd General Service Conference

- The Trustees’ Literature Committee reviewed proposed agenda items related to the changes approved by the 2021 General Service Conference to the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions and noted the importance and interest of the Advisory Actions to the Fellowship.

- The trustees’ Literature committee agreed to forward to the 2023 Conference Literature Committee all proposed agenda items related to the changes in the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions as one grouped item with the suggestion that the Conference Literature Committee consider forwarding the item to the General Service Areas for wider discussion looking toward a policy setting whether to edit AA’s cofounder's words and, if so, then how to edit them in our current literature.

- The agenda item would be discussed by the Fellowship during the 2023-2024 Conference year and considered by the Conference Committee on Literature at the 2024 General Service Conference.

A draft version of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth Edition), be translated into plain and simple language and be developed in a way that is accessible and relatable to as wide of an audience as possible and that a progress report or draft be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.

In response to this Advisory Action the Fellowship submitted 16 PAI’S to the 72nd General Service Conference referring to the development of the Plain Language Big Book.

- The Trustees Committee on Literature

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Took No Action: Oversight of the development of the plain language book is within the scope of TABB subcommittee. The committee requested that these observations inform a future progress report from the TABB subcommittee.

Floor Action:

It was recommended that:

The translation of the book Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth Edition) into plain and simple language, that the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions, and the Twelve Concepts, not be translated into plain language in any way: that these remain in the existing form in English as in previous editions of the book Alcoholics Anonymous. Decline to consider.

In response the Fellowship submitted 32 PAI'S on the same Advisory Action to the 73rd General Service Conference

- The trustee's' Literature Committee agreed to forward to the 2023 Conference Literature Committee all new proposed agenda items related to the Plain Language Big Book as one grouped item.
- The committee also discussed requests from some members regarding access to the draft of the Plain Language Big Book.
- After due consultation, the committee agreed to provide a monitored, "closed" reading room for Conference members only during the 2023 General Service Conference, where Conference Literature Committee members will be given first viewing of draft chapters in a controlled environment.
- The Conference Committee discussed new proposed agenda items (PAI's) related to the plain language Big Book translation and took no action. The committee

acknowledged the concerns of members, groups, and areas in the Fellowship regarding the oversight of the process of a translation of the book Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth edition) into plain and simple language. The committee noted that these concerns will be addressed at a special session during the 2023 General Service.

A special session was held at the 73rd General Service Conference Delegates had an opportunity to share their thoughts on the draft.

At Area 16's Georgia State Service Assembly May 20, 2023, approximately 180 members assembled in circles of 15 to 20. Each group had a facilitator, a timekeeper, and a note taker. Each member was allowed 2 minutes to share on the question or topic. Each group received 2 questions or topics. The questions were distributed randomly.

The questions were:

A. Changes to the book "Twelve Steps and Twelve Tradition" were implemented in two Advisory Actions at the 71st General Service Conference. Share your input regarding any possible future changes to literature written by A.A.'s founders.

88 responses yielded.

43 - Don't change the words of the Founders.

3 - Literature is sacred. Not enough GSRs to come and participate. Recent changes were not made with a groundswell of support from current members.

3 - Bottom-up discussion. Questions come from the top, filter down to groups, discussed there and sent back up the chain. (doesn't seem to be getting any-

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where).

2 - Possible future changes should go through 3 conferences at NY before changes to Founders literature. 2 - Everything that came from founders would have to have to be approved by 3/4ths of all groups in writing.

2 - Agenda comes from NY Feb 15-vote on in April 20. Minimum of two year time frame for changes to books.

2 - Not opposed to change.

B. The development of the Plain Language Big Book is almost complete. Projected to be ready by June of 2023. There were numerous Agenda Items submitted for the Conference Agenda in 2022 and in 2023 from the fellowship with concerns about a translation of the 4th edition. Share your thoughts on the Translation of the 4th edition of Alcoholics Anonymous to Plain and Simple Language.

29 - No problem with it. If a PL BB can reach more people, great.

3 - This would be very useful to many people.

1 - This would be a new translation. The original BB will not go away. It could make the BB more accessible to a newcomer. Trust the process!

13 - If it's not broke don't fix it. Concerned that more translations will dilute the message.

6 - I have problems with the process. People in my district don't want it. I don't think the delegates were given enough time to review, digest, and weigh in.

3 - Plain language - not started at the grassroots level. Felt like conference directive rather than member driven.

3 - Totally against it. Feels that all of the

changes made during the covid emergency should be reevaluated since there was lack of feedback and participation during that time.

Additional Questions

1. The Plain Language Big Book is designed to help members that might have difficulty reading "Alcoholics Anonymous". Are there other options that might be helpful?

Sponsor's responsibility to help someone understand.

Audiobooks

Sitting with someone and reading it to them

2. Was there discussion in your District/Home Group on the Agenda Items for Conference concerning Literature changes to the Twelve and Twelve and/or the Plain Language Big Book translation?

9 - Yes (mixed reviews, misinformation, heated discussions)

9 - No (report but no discussion, unaware it was a translation)

3. GSR attendance at the Area 16 Assembly has declined in the past several years. What are your ideas to help encourage increased attendance and participation at the Area 16 Assembly from registered groups and their designated GSR? (see GSR Survey Report)

4. What are your thoughts on possibly developing a plain language translation of the Twelve and Twelve? 12 - No changes to the Twelve and Twelve.

1 - Use money to Translate to foreign languages.

5. How does your Voice reach the General Service Conference? Are you familiar with Agenda Item Submission Forms (PAIs)?

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21 - Not familiar with PAI'S

11 - Informed by GSR's and DCM's

9 - our voice is not heard by the General Service Conference

A spreadsheet with the notes taken from the comments made by participants in the Round Robin will be available on aa.org along with this report. I want to thank all of you for participating.

From GSO

Archives

- Completed cataloging of the 2023 General Service Conference

Publishing

- 85 titles are backordered. 44 of them should be available in the next 30 days.

Operations

- Service Kit contents provided in a digital format with QR Codes has allowed for the fulfillment of backorders of over 7,100 service kits since March 1st .

Communications

- GSRs will be receiving Box 459. 60,000 members are on the distribution list.
- 102 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) go live on aa.org in 3 languages.

Staff Services

- The Big Book has been translated into Haitian Creole and is being reviewed by a group in Haiti.

Translations, Licensing, and Intellectual Property

- Licensing inquiries started out at 965. 736 have been processed and completed leaving 229 to go. Expectation is to be current in the next 45 days.

AAWS

- Daily Reflections available in audio for-

mat in English, French and Spanish for \$11.99

- "AA for the Older Alcoholic" in new booklet perfect-bound format for \$2.00 Grapevine\La Viña

- The Grapevine App launched Sept. 1st. Official launch was announced at the ICYPAA convention in San Francisco and the Hispanic Convention in Seattle. The new App is available through the Apple and Google app stores. \$2.99 monthly or \$28.97 annually. GV Complete package is \$54.00 annually. La Viña has a bi-monthly subscription of \$2.99 for digital/ \$14.95 annually. La Viña Complete is \$27.00 annually.

- GV Podcast has over 530,000 downloads

- Fall Book is a Spanish translation of Prayer and Mediation.

- Instagram: Grapevine has 10,600 followers. La Viña has 1,351 followers

- YouTube: 11,000 subscribers, 107 videos with 157,222 views

- Grapevine Website: 2nd quarter averaged 104,356 new visitors; 8,151 returning visitors and 283,343 page views.

- Carry the Message certificates processed YTD: 1,137

- Audio Project: New push to get members involved and get more audio stories.

Trustees' Committees

Archives

- Remove the digital sharing section in the Archives Workbook.

General Service Conference Committee

- General sharing sessions to be held at least 2 times a year, utilizing virtual meeting technology, these meetings are

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being coordinated by the GSB Chair, Delegate Chair, and our General Manager.

- Took no action on extending the Sept. 15th PAI submission deadline.

CPC/ Treatment/Accessibilities

- Military audio project – work plan and budget to be developed for 2024
- Inventory of Accessibilities-related AA and GV resources is postponed to be discussed in October 2023
- Carrying the message to those with intellectual or information processing challenges – postponed to October 2023

Corrections

- Experience shared on virtual meetings in correctional facilities. 11 stories from members in custody have been submitted.

Finance and Budgetary

- Report quarterly the fiscal performance of the AAWS, GSB and GV Boards throughout the year to the GSC – The committee discussed ways to ensure that the financial reporting strategy is cohesive across all 3 boards and both offices (Grapevine and GSO); clarifying policies and practices for responding to ad hoc requests for financial information; review current reporting and the effectiveness or redundancies created by new additional reporting; ensuring consistency of reporting over time.

International Conventions and Regional Forums

- A digital option for the 2025 International Convention, providing anonymity-protected, encrypted, digital access to the Friday night meeting (Including the flag ceremony), and the Saturday and Sunday Big Meetings, at a fee to be determined. \$25,000-\$30,000 estimated cost.
- Subcommittee appointed to explore vir-

tual format options for Regional Forums.

- Closing the Big Meetings will be forwarded to the 2024 ICRF Conference Committee with additional background.

Literature

❑ AA for the Black and African American Alcoholic – seeking local input on the history of the Canadian AA Black Community.

❑ Fifth Edition – working group of additional readers from the fellowship for the substantial number of story submissions.

❑ Plain and simple Language Big Book – subcommittee renamed to “Subcommittee for the Development of the Plain Language Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous.”

❑ Consideration to seek Fellowship input regarding changes to Bill’s writings – questions to be forwarded to Regional Trustees and Delegates to allow local sharing sessions and engagement from the Fellowship.

Public Information

- 2022 membership survey – webpage and pamphlet with a QR code should be rolled out together.
- Mesmerize Point PSA distribution channel is airing PSAs in 2,193 pharmacies and 2,500 doctor’s offices.
- Submit a video to the Young People’s Video Project at <https://www.aa.org/young-peoples-video-project>

Unaudited Financials

OPERATING CASH

As of July 17, operating cash on hand is \$528,108 which represents 0.37 months (between one and two weeks) of 2023 budget operating expenses.

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REVENUE

- YTD Contributions are \$4,839,110 down 3% from Last Year.
- YTD Gross Literature Sales \$7,877,177 up 37% from Last Year
- YTD Literature Gross Margin \$4,082,317 up 49% from Last Year
 - Cost of Goods Sold is \$3.8 Million. That is 48.8%. It was 46.4% Last Year.
- Budget reforecast 3.0 shows an operating deficit of \$292,931. RESERVE FUND as of June 30 th , total \$13,098,822. Subtracting the GV Liability fund of \$573,012 leaves \$12,525,810 at 7.11 months

I would like to thank our outgoing Committee Chairpersons, Mark G. (Archives), William B. (PI/ CPC) Janie C. (Communications), and Dave L (Web Committee) for their service to Area 16 during their four years as CoChair and then Chair of their respective committee. We are very grateful to David M., for stepping up and filling the Office Committee Chair position. We will miss him on the Office Committee, and we appreciate his service. David was our Panel 58 Delegate. He has held every position on Area 16's Office Committee in the past and is one of our most humble servant leaders.

The spirit of rotation is a beautiful principle. I have been on a journey in Alcoholics Anonymous that has presented me with many opportunities to serve. Each time I have felt overwhelmed at the beginning. I have been blessed with people that told me to get in the car, but also people that suggested that God won't drive a parked car. Our General Service Structure is our gift from our Co-Founders. I am honored to be a part of that General Service Structure. I believe I have a right to be grateful. There is

a priceless freedom that comes with that right.

On the last page of the AA Service Manual, Bill ends with these few sentences:

"Freedom under God to grow in his likeness and image will ever be the quest of Alcoholics Anonymous. May our General Service Conference be always seen as a chief symbol of this cherished liberty. To a man, we of A.A. believe that our freedom to serve is truly the freedom by which we live the freedom in which we have our being.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Delegate.

7. Old Business

- a. Vote on Motion made in January 2023—Clarification of Delegate Qualifications

"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)."

- i. Motion approved

8. New Business

- a. Report From DCM Outreach Commit-

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tee-GSR Survey report given by Kirby

- b. Area 16 use of the 2023 General Service Conference theme and workshop titles for the 2024 Cluster Forums:
 - i. Theme approved
- c. Approval of Corrections Co-Chair: Amber T. approved
- d. Approval of Secretary Candidate: Chrys “Kirby” M. approved
- e. Election of Delegate and Alternate Delegate
 - i. Tom B. elected as incoming delegate
 - ii. Liz W. elected as incoming alt. delegate
- f. General Sharing
- i. Motion for Coins for Cons made by David J., GSR Thomson, seconded by Jeff Stephenson., GSR Martinez
- ii. That the assembled General Service Representatives instructs the Treasurer to include in the regular Area 16 Financial Report the following balances related for Coins from Cons Contributions:
 - Beginning Balance of the Coins for Cons Account at the beginning of the reporting period.
 - Total Revenues During the reporting period
 - Total expenditures during the reporting period
 - Expenditures for requests from individual during the reporting period
 - Expenditures for requests from institutions and organizations during the reporting period
 - Ending balance of the coins for cons account at the end of the reporting period
 - Motion tabled, ad hoc committee

to be appointed to review motion.

- To be addressed at the January, 2024 Area 16 Service Assembly

iii) Motion for Minutes made by David J., GSR Thomson, seconded by Jeff Stephenson., GSR Martinez

- 1) On page 39 of the Georgia AA Service Manual that item 8. in the section “Services to be performed by Assembly Office” be changed from:

“8. If requested by the Delegate, meetings of the DCMs and the Office Committee may be published at the Delegates discretion.”

[Change to] “8. Minutes of the DCMs and the Office Committee shall be made available to the membership on a password protected page of the Area 16 web site within 30 days of each meeting. Office Committee minutes shall only be redacted in order to protect discussions of personnel matters, with all other discussions being published.”

- i. Ad hoc committee to be appointed
- g. Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Will, GSR of Chapter 3 Group, District 13A, seconded by John ,GSR of Rule 62 Group, District 13A
 - i. Meeting closed with Lord’s Prayer (Spanish and English)

September 2023 Assembly minutes

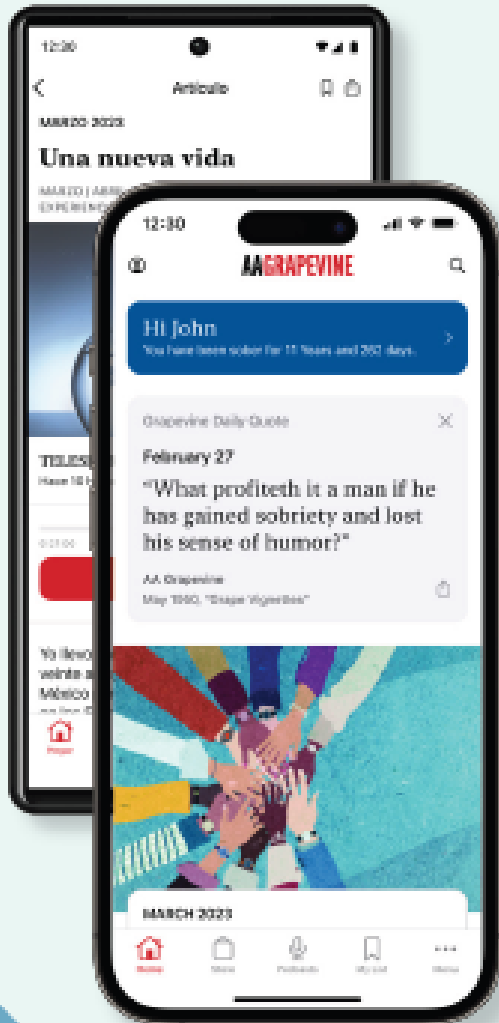
**Respectfully submitted by Kirby M.,
Area 16 Secretary**



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71st Georgia State Prepaid Convention



October 17th - 20th, 2024

Jekyll Island Convention Center

Please mark the circles below if you are interested in attending the following:

Saturday Morning Golf Tournament ☐
Saturday Night Dinner: Island Buffet ☐

Additional activities and speakers are TBA

Registration

Name _____ Email _____

Badge Name _____ Sobriety Date _____

Phone Number _____ City _____ State _____

Affiliation: AA ☐ Al-anon ☐ Alateen ☐ Guest ☐

Out of State Registration AA, Al-Anon & Guest: \$25, Alateen \$10

Make Checks Payable to: 71st Georgia Prepaid Convention
Mail Registration to: PO Box 20347, St. Simons Island, GA 31522

Translation/ASL/Accessibilities Request? (Please specify) _____



DISTRICT 17 CLUSTER FORUM

Please join us for:

Fellowship, delicious food, and presentations from our Area 16 Trusted Servants
AA's three legacies - our common solution
General Service - Our Mighty Purpose and Rhythm
Our Common Perils and Common Solution
Using AA's Literature in Carrying the Message
Fostering a Thriving Three Legacy Culture

Where:

Grupo Recuperacion
Hispana
465 Pat Mell Rd SE
Smyrna, GA 30080

When: November 11, 2023

9:00am - 1:00 pm

Registration begins at 8:30 am
for more information
contact

Raimundo 678-447-5261

Veronica 404-514-0316



DISTRITO 17 CLUSTER FORUM

Acompañanos a :

Compartir, disfrutar deliciosa comida y escuchar las presentaciones de nuestros servidores del area 16

Los tres legados de AA - nuestra solución común

Servicios Generales - nuestro poderoso propósito y ritmo

Nuestros peligros comunes y nuestra solución común

Utilización de la literatura de AA para transmitir el mensaje

Fomentando una cultura próspera de los tres legados

Donde:

Grupo Recuperacion
Hispana
465 Pat Mell Rd SE
Smyrna, GA 30080

Cuando: Noviembre 11, 2023

9:00am - 1:00 pm

Registraciones comienzan a
las 8:30 am

para mas información
contactar a :

Raimundo 678-447-5261

Veronica 404-514-0316

Raymundo 404-502-4192