

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

Confidential for members  
November / December 2013  
Volume 47, Numbers 11-12

## **I Salute You and I Thank You For Your Lives**

By Tom H.  
Area 16 Delegate

November is Gratitude Month and I have so many things to be grateful for. Perhaps Bill W. said it best in his last message to the Fellowship in quoting an Arabian salutation, "I salute you and I thank you for your lives. I am not all I wish to be and I have not done all I hoped I could at this point in my life but undoubtedly I would be much less without you. In the last 25 years I have witnessed the miraculous, experienced joy I could have never imagined, and I have felt pain I didn't know existed. I didn't drink and I would not be who I am without each and every experience." It is easy for me to see why Bill saluted us and thanked us for our lives. For without you there would be no AA and there would be no me. Thank you for allowing me to serve you.

I will rotate out of my service position as Delegate along with several other Area servants whom I salute. David M., past Delegate and current Office Chair, Joan M., current Area Grapevine Chair, Claudia S., current Area Archivist Chair, Bill F., current Area Communications Chair, and Tom B., current Area Webmaster will all rotate at the end of this year. The commitment these servants have shown to their respective positions and to Area 16 is without parallel, and we owe them our gratitude for their service.

I salute those taking new positions in the coming year. Rebecca T. is our new Delegate, and she will serve us well as will our new Alt. Delegate Ernie M. Please welcome them and support them in their new service positions.

A highlight of being Area 16's Delegate is to witness the work of AA at the General Service Conference. While this is important work, I see more important work being done in the home groups and at the Assembly. The most important part of any service position is to report back to the body you serve.

**"Trustees, Delegates and Staff can make policy decision on literature and the like, but it is the working committees in the home groups that make it all possible."**

In my two years as your Delegate I have to report that AA's growth and financial health is up to you. Trustees, Delegates and Staff can make policy decision on literature and the like, but it is the working committees

in the home groups that make it all possible. Meeting you all has been the greatest gift of my service. To walk side by side with you is something I am grateful to be a part of. I am inspired by your service and I salute you. My sobriety and the sobriety of those to come depends upon us all. Let us express our gratitude this month by giving back what we can.

**"Rebecca T. is our new Delegate and she will serve us well as will our new Alternate Delegate Ernie M. Please welcome them and support them in their new service positions."**

Much AA Love,  
Tom

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

## **Service Work in Action**

By Rebecca T.  
Area 16 Alternate Delegate

Gratitude fills my heart to serve Area 16. Over the last couple years as Alternate Delegate, I have enjoyed getting to meet you at the Cluster Forums and the Assemblies. The passion our Area has for Alcoholics Anonymous is awesome!

Service has taken me from being isolated in the meetings I attended to seeing AA as a whole. People have shown me how service can be fun and still serious. I can be open to look at things from someone else's point of view. Listening to others brings unity in our service structure. Also, I have learned one word can

make a big difference in an issue. I am so grateful to be part of a fellowship where we all have a voice to preserve the program which saved our lives.

Through my experience with Alcoholics Anonymous, I am a better family member and employee as well as a better AA member. I can look to the Twelfth Step to "practice these principles in all my affairs." With the upcoming holidays, I need to be more aware of H.A.L.T. and practicing the AA principles.

I look forward to "meeting you as we trudge the road to happy destiny. May God bless you and keep you – until then." See you all at the January Assembly.

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

### Just One More Dollar

By Gene T.  
Area 16 Treasurer

This is our last Message for the year, and it has been an honor and privilege to serve as your Area 16 Treasurer this year. It is a humbling experience to feel the trust you have in me to serve Area 16. I thank you all.

It has also been a very trying year for me and my family, losing my brother and almost losing my daughter. I have also lost so many close friends that were in and outside AA - just too many to say - but, please help by keeping me and my family in your prayers.

I spent time at the Macon office with Tamera and our past Treasurer, Don McQ., going over our last 10 years of income/expense reports and wanted to give you an update on where we stand. I want to report that our income was up by 26%; however our expenses were up by 33%. I'm not a CPA, but I know that this situation is backwards. We need more income than expenses, and that leads me into what is known as "self-supporting through our own contributions." To fix this we will need everyone in Area 16 to give one dollar before the end of the year. I will not take up my space in the Message with a bunch of numbers, but if we

do this we can have a very tiny surplus.....but a surplus none the less. I know that we all have our personal income stretched to the limits now, and next year may not be better. Just one more dollar from each of us will do it. So as I say from our podium, "dig deep." I hope to have a balanced budget for 2014 that can be approved in November, and I will do my best to give you the right information to make the right choices for our 2015 budget.

My family and I want to wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving and a wonderful Christmas this year. I have so many things to be thankful for that I get overwhelmed when I think of them. Thank you for allowing me to serve and may God bless you all.

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

### Finding Your Niche

By Shari M.  
Area 16 Secretary

Greetings everyone! Congratulations to Rebecca and Ernie on their election as Delegate and Alternate Delegate, respectively. I so admire those with the willingness to stand and be of service at this level. What a great gift of sobriety. Another gift I have gotten this year is the opportunity to watch another alcoholic learn and grow. I wrote before about my sponsee's first trip to the Assembly. Well, I was able to watch her take another step in the spirit of service and fellowship recently. We had talked about service work, and I encouraged her to investigate, attend workshops at the Assembly, do some reading and listening, and think about where she might want to serve. She attended the Corrections Workshop held in District 5 a few months ago, and wow! She came back from the workshop so excited and full of enthusiasm for the opportunities available to work with the suffering alcoholic who may not be free to attend meetings outside of an institution. She signed up for Corrections Correspondence. This works for her, and she

is very excited to begin sharing her experience, strength and hope via mail. This reminded me of my own service journey. My husband forwarded me an email from the Area looking for a graphic designer who could help with the Message layout. Well, I love graphic design and I also love sitting on my couch! So this was the perfect opportunity to help the Area with something that I was good at and that worked with my schedule at the time. And this really began my general service journey. So, if you don't have a service position yet, look around. Trust me, there is something for everyone in AA.

I hope to see my Atlanta friends at the Metro Cluster Forum to be held in Smyrna on November 9 at 8:30 a.m., and then I will see DCMs at our planning meeting in Macon on November 16. Please remember to complete the group information forms that were distributed at the September Assembly and bring them to Tamera at the planning meeting. Then we all get to enjoy the holiday season, and we'll see you again in January at the Southwest Cluster Form, date TBA. Until then, keep trudging the road!

### Web Stats for [www.aageorgia.org](http://www.aageorgia.org)

Here are a few figures the Area 16 Website Committee looks at to measure the traffic of the website.

**Page Views** (the number of pages visitors viewed on a given day):

- August 2013 – 48,267 page views with a daily average of 1,557 page views
- September 2013 – 51,065 page views with a daily average of 1,702 page views

**Unique Visitors** (the number of individual visitors who came to the site. The unique visitors number should always be smaller than the page views number simply because one person can visit multiple pages and thereby generate a number of different page views.):

- August 2013 – 44,448 unique visitors with a daily average of 1,434 unique visitors
- September 2013 – 44,752 unique visitors with a daily average of 1,492 unique visitors

**GRAPEVINE / grapevine@aageorgia.org**

**Advocates for Grapevine**

By Joan M., Chair and Janie C., Co-Chair  
Area 16 Grapevine Committee

Chapter seven of the newly revised GV Workbook states “GVRs and RLVs act as advocates for Grapevine and LaViña at the group and district level, alerting their groups to the use of the magazines as recovery tools. It is, many say, the best service job they’ve ever had.”

How do they serve?

- make sure that copies of the magazine are available and displayed at meetings
- announce the arrival of each new issue
- encourage members to visit [www.aageorgia.org](http://www.aageorgia.org) and [www.aageorgia.org/Español](http://www.aageorgia.org/Español)
- share about articles in the magazines or the websites
- encourage individual subscriptions
- encourage the group to buy subscriptions in the group’s name

When you have been elected as a

group or district GVR/RLV, it’s important to register with GV New York. Registration is easy and can be done online at [aageorgia.org](http://aageorgia.org). Once registered with the GV office, you will receive a Welcome Kit to help you fulfill your service commitment (district reps also register with Tamara at the state office in order to be included in the Area Directory).

A key area for the GVR on the GV website is the tab “Resources/GVR.” Here you can register, download the GV News — which comes out monthly and has the most current GV information — download the Workbook, order complimentary material and much, much more.

The Grapevine/LaViña magazines are written by alcoholics for alcoholics. Bill once called it “the largest mirror we have of up-to-date AA thought, feeling and activity.”

I love the Grapevine for the reasons just stated. I use it as a tool and pass it on so others can, too.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve Area 16 as your Grapevine Committee Chair. I thank you.

**Atlanta Metro  
Cluster Forum  
November 9, 2013  
10am—1pm**

Host: Area 16/District 13/Zone J

St. Benedicts Episcopal Church  
2160 Cooper Lake Road  
Smyrna, GA 30080

**Topics:**

- The Triangle: More Than A Shape
- The General Service Conference Inventory
- Self Support
- Carrying the Message

**Coffee, Snacks and Lunch**

**PI/CPC / pi/cpc@aageorgia.org**

**A Message of Gratitude**

By LeAnne O., Chair and Chase S., Co-Chair  
Area 16 Public Information/Cooperation  
With the Professional Community Committee

It is an exciting time to be involved in PI/CPC. At this past Assembly we gained a wonderful asset to our committee, Chase S. He will be your new co-chair for PI/CPC. The enthusiasm he brought to Assembly was awesome! We had two wonderful PI/CPC meetings at the September Assembly. At our morning meeting everyone shared about their current PI/CPC work. There is a lot of work being done around Georgia with DUI schools, medical schools, drug courts and other areas, but there is still a lot of a service work available.

It’s funny how the holidays bring out the “best” of us alcoholics, when drinking brought out the “best” heartache, “best” drunken craziness and of course the “best” pity parties. Starting in November there seems to be an abundance of gratitude meetings, which personally is

one of my favorite meeting topics. In AA I learned that gratitude was a verb, which to me means that I just don’t say I am grateful and take my life and sobriety for granted. I act on my gratitude by being of service, which ironically makes me more grateful. PI/CPC work is a great way to show your gratitude. Some ideas for doing PI/CPC work over the holidays include going to the source that introduced you to AA, whether it be a doctor, judge, lawyer, probation officer, counselor, or clergy to name a few, and take them some AA literature and meeting schedules. A suggestion for a group or district activity is to take out an ad in your local newspaper with your area’s hotline or central office number, or maybe renting a bus stop bench ad. You never know... it might just be the seed that sprouts a few “one day at a time” experiences.

**FROM YOUR EDITOR**

Recently on a business trip I was at a reception with a bar. I requested a club soda and the bartender asked me, “Do you want it to look like a cocktail?” That question led to an interesting discussion on AA. We had differing opinions, but we were both sober. I knew I had made a new friend who understood the road I had traveled and was still traveling. It’s comforting to know that, even thousands of miles from home, through sobriety I’m always amongst friends.

—Amy F., Area 16 Editor

The Georgia Message of AA is published by Area 16.  
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**ARCHIVES / archives@aageorgia.org**

**There's Still Time...**

By Claudia S., Chair and  
John B., Co-Chair  
Area 16 Archives Committee

Well, the deadline to get your group history in for We Share II has come and gone. During the last few weeks leading up to the Assembly, dozens of groups hopped on the wagon and turned in their group information. We also have some new old-timers stories, some old-timer updates and DCM updates.

If you sent your group information in and want to make sure we have your information for We Share II, check the Area 16 website for your submission by going to services, area committees, archives. Then click on the link that says update list. If you did turn in your information and your group is not on the list, don't fret. We will get in touch with you and make sure we get your information in the book. Just send archives an email, including your district number and group name.

The next step is to start editing the information. We have set aside one year to get this done. That leaves three months to get it to the Publisher in correct format to print. This keeps us on schedule to have the book completed and printed in time for the 2015 International Convention in Atlanta.

Now, buy, buy, buy please! If you have not purchased your copies of We Share II, do so as soon as possible. They are \$10 a piece (remember to include tax) if paid for in advance. You must buy them in increments of five. You can order and pay online on the archives website for Area 16, or send a check to GSSA noting it's for We Share II. The deadline for pre-orders will be the September Assembly in 2014.

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

**TREATMENT /  
treatment@aageorgia.org**

**Getting Pre-prepared**

By Willie S., Chair and John L., Co-Chair  
Area 16 Treatment/Special Needs/  
Accessibilities Committee

The Assembly workshops in September were awesome! Thank you to all who participated! Don O. from District 7A presented details regarding Special Needs/Accessibilities that were very informative and gave a lot to think about in our Groups regarding making our meeting places accessible to all.

In the realm of Special Needs/Accessibilities, we have been talking at Cluster Forums and the Assembly workshops about pre-preparing for members coming into the meetings who have special needs. One simple thing we can do is to make sure group listings on the website are coded for those groups who have handicap-accessible meeting places. Another area in which we can be prepared is to know what AA literature is available to help members with special needs. Do you know what literature is available in audio format? Braille? ASL? Look over the literature catalog and be prepared. It may not be cost-effective to stock these items, but if you have a member attend your meeting for whom these may be of help, you'll already know what's available. Other suggestions from discussions are to use PA systems to help hearing impaired members hear better, or make sure to speak clearly when sharing and face members who may have hearing deficits. It's also good to eliminate cross-talk and background noises to aid in helping members who have hearing difficulties.

For those who are Group Treatment/Special Needs/Accessibilities reps, we need you as part of the overall service structure. We are all one committee, from the members and groups to districts, to the Area, and to GSO. Carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic is where shared experience, whether creative solutions or difficulties, may benefit us all.

**COMMUNICATIONS / communications@aageorgia.org**

**A Heartfelt Thanks**

By Bill F., Chair and  
Chuck L., Co-Chair  
Area 16 Communications Committee

Congratulations to Rebecca and Ernie. It is clear that Area 16 is in good hands. It is with sadness, however, that I write this article, as it is the last time that I will address you as your Communications Chair. What a wonderful experience this has been, and one that I will treasure forever.

I want to thank all of you that have helped sooo much along the way: Jane G. and Amy F. for their editing expertise and their willingness and ability to do such a terrific job with the Message. Thanks to Richard S. and all the translators, both verbal and written, for stepping up and enabling the website, the Message, the Area meetings, and all the additional handouts to be available in Spanish and doing this so well and

with so much enthusiasm. Thanks also to District 17 for being such a great example of sobriety, unity, willingness and leadership. It has been a pleasure to work with you on all the various projects.

Thanks to all the DCM's, GSR's, and all AA members for accepting me into your hearts and making this such a fun experience. Thanks for all the great Cluster Forums; we really learned a lot together.

Thank you to Tamera P. for all your help. What a wonderful lady.

Last, but definitely not least, thank you to Chuck L. You have had such great insight and inspiration. Communications will do well under your stewardship.

Thank you for allowing me to serve. I hope I will get the chance to serve you again! Love you all!

## A Year in Review

By Jim T., Chair  
Tim E., Co-Chair  
Area 16 Corrections Committee

As 2013 draws to a close, the Area 16 Corrections Committee continues to carry the AA message of recovery to the alcoholics who still suffer in Georgia's correctional facilities. Let's take a quick look at where we stand, as of the first of October, by the numbers:

- 102 copies of AA conference approved books have been supplied to our state's inmates in correctional facilities by the Area 16 Coins for Cons Program in 2013. This includes 48 copies of the Big Book.
- 152 Bridge The Gap forms were received from inmates looking to transition from AA on the inside to AA on the outside. This is a wonderful program which provides pre-release contacts for our inside members as they re-enter society.
- 91 AA volunteers received training for certification at our three training sessions at the state office in Macon this year. These are offered free of charge to AA members interested in

carrying the message into any Georgia Department of Corrections facilities. We are very pleased that Warden Sanders will continue to conduct our training sessions in 2014.

- 23 of the 34 state prisons now have AA meetings established, with six more requesting our assistance. We will continue to extend the hand of AA to our alcoholic inmates as we move forward from here.

None of this would have been possible if it wasn't for the participation of our AA Corrections volunteers all over Georgia. Whether you donated to the Coins For Cons Program, helped out with Bridge The Gap or carried the message into our state's jails and prisons, we are extremely grateful for your efforts!

We hope that everyone enjoys a safe and happy holiday season and we look forward to seeing everyone at the January Assembly. Next year's Corrections Certification Training Sessions will be held on January 25<sup>th</sup>, May 24<sup>th</sup> and September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

To preserve anonymity, the Georgia Message of AA does not contain personal phone numbers, personal email addresses or the password to access protected information on [www.aageorgia.org](http://www.aageorgia.org). Here are some tips on how to reach trusted servants:

1. Use the official email addresses for Area 16 trusted servants located above articles, in our service directory or on [aageorgia.org](http://aageorgia.org).
2. To get a phone number, use the service directory given to each group at the January Assembly or call our Macon office at 478.745.2588.
3. The password to access protected web content can be obtained from the service directory, your GSR, your DCM, the Area office in Macon, [webmaster@aageorgia.org](mailto:webmaster@aageorgia.org) or other trusted servants. Please provide any feedback to: [communications@aageorgia.org](mailto:communications@aageorgia.org) or [editor@aageorgia.org](mailto:editor@aageorgia.org).

## CALENDAR of EVENTS

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

<b>October 17-20</b>	<b>60<sup>th</sup> Georgia Pre-Paid Convention</b> Atlanta
<b>November 1-3</b>	<b>SSAASA</b> Baton Rouge, LA
<b>November 2</b>	<b>Gratitude Dinner</b> Albany, Dist 1A,1B,2A,2B
<b>November 9</b>	<b>Metro Cluster Forum</b> Smyrna, Dist 13A, 13B, 13D, 13E, 13F, 13G, 13H, 13I, 13J, 13K
<b>November 16</b>	<b>DCM Planning Meeting</b> Macon Centreplex – Convention Center (Monument Room) 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
<b>December 5-8</b>	<b>Woodstock of the South</b> Lake Lanier Islands

**The deadline for inclusion in the GA Message for January/February is November 1<sup>st</sup>.**

There are no subscription fees for this newsletter, however all contributions are appreciated. Please mail to: GSSA, P. O. Box 7325, Macon, GA 31209 or email [editor@aageorgia.org](mailto:editor@aageorgia.org).

## MACON MARRIOTT CITY CENTER RESERVATIONS

**Need A Room at the Marriott for Assembly?  
CALL (478) 621-5300**

**Please remember to tell them that you are with the GA State Service Assembly to get the Group Rate.**

**Note that the cut-off date is December 18, 2013.**

## September Assembly Minutes

**Area 16 Assembly  
Marriott Macon City Center, Macon,  
September 22, 2013; 9:05 a.m.**

**Delegate Report – Tom H, Panel 62 Delegate**

I'm an alcoholic and my name is Tom. It is a privilege to serve as your Delegate and I thank you for the opportunity to serve Alcoholics Anonymous here in Area 16 Georgia.

The following people will be rotating out of their position at the end of the year - Claudia, Joan, Bill, and Tom. Claudia is the Chair of the Area Archives Committee and after her rotation at the end of the year she will remain in service to us as the Chair of the We Share project until it is completed. Joan is the Chair of the Area Grapevine Committee. Bill is the Chair of the Area Communications Committee. And Tom is our Webmaster. I cannot fully express the gratitude I have for them all in their service to our Area. Please help me give them the applause they deserve.

This is David M.'s last Assembly. He has served as Area Treasurer, Alt. Delegate, Delegate, Area Chair, and Area Office Chair. That is ten years of service to this Area not including GSR and DCM. I had the privilege of being David's week long guest at the General Service Conference during his final year as Delegate. In case you are ever given this opportunity I want you to know that your role is to make sure the Delegate has everything they need. For me that meant waking up very early every day and going across the street to provide David with Starbucks coffee. For me that meant going to the laundry mat and washing David's clothes. David served on the now infamous 59<sup>th</sup> GSC which was a rough conference for all in attendance. In spending this time with our soft spoken Area servant I got to know David a little more intimately. I got to see David very upset and very passionate about an issue while in his boxers, knee socks, and undershirt. I do not recommend this for anyone new to AA. What I do recommend is for you to get to know David if you don't already. I will miss you and I thank you for your service to our Area.

Cathy B., David N., Deborah C., Lee T., and Don M. are the members of the Pre-Paid Ad-Hoc Committee. The Office Committee has asked them to look at the relationship between the Office Committee and the Pre-Paid State Convention and develop an inventory process. This committee has worked very hard for nearly a year now and provided us with a set of inventory questions that will help to better define how we operate in the spirit of Unity. This is in your hands now. The DCM's have these inventory questions and will be asking for GSR input. I am excited to watch this process as it unfolds and I thank you guys for your work on this project.

A little news about what is going on in AA. The 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition of the Big Book should be available in April of next year and will be \$12.00 per book. This book will only be available for a limited time. The pamphlet 'AA For The Alcoholic With Special Needs' has been translated in ASL and is available on DVD. AAWS approved the posting of 60 existing Public Service Announcements (PSA) in mobile friendly format. Also AAWS has entered into discussions with third party vendors as to move forward with eBook formats.

Last year at the September Assembly I asked you all to approve a motion concerning AA's centennial birthday. Our item was discussed at the trustees' Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums during the July Board weekend.

The following is the letter I received from the co-secretary of that committee;

"Greetings from all your friends at GSO!

As you know, on February 2, 2013 the trustees' Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums tabled discussion on Area 16's proposal submitted in December 2012 recommending 'that the General Service Conference form a committee in 2013 to begin planning for AA's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2035.' The committee met on July 27, 2013 and the following is from the minutes:

The committee reviewed with appreciation a request for the Conference to form a committee to begin planning AA's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary for 2035 and took no action. The committee suggested that the General Service Board include discussion on AA's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in long-term strategic planning.

On behalf of the committee, please convey our appreciation for the Area's thoughtful and visionary proposal regarding AA's centennial birthday in 2035. Indeed, it will be a significant historical event. In the meantime, we join in sending our gratitude for the Area's participation in the process."

Forming a committee to begin planning for AA's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday now is probably too much to ask of a committee to be together for the length of time this would take. However action has been taken on our request and planning for that event will be looked at each year.

The thought of contributing for those who are unable was the springboard for the two gift boxes you see on the podium. The per member cost to support the services GSO provides for the year 2012 is \$6.43 and the per member cost to provide services to our Area is \$9.10. I pledge to contribute these amounts for someone who cannot at each Assembly. I encourage you all to find ways of increasing our contributions and maybe this idea of gifting a contribution is a way to do just that. I welcome any ideas that are working in your home group.

This is my last Assembly as your Delegate. I want to thank you for allowing me to serve you in this capacity. I am a better man for it and I hope I have contributed something to you or our Area that has made us all a little better at carrying the message. As you may have read in the most recent issue of Box 495 our Class A (non-alcoholic) Chairman of the Board was asked what he felt were some of the greatest challenges facing AA right now. Terry responded, "The key issue facing AA is membership growth and engagement." I believe the two are inseparable. Our lack of growth since the early 90's is directly proportional to how we engage new and current members. As Bill W. put it (August 1946 GV article entitled Who Is a Member of Alcoholics Anonymous?), "The way our 'worthy' alcoholics have sometimes tried to judge the 'less worthy' is, as we look back on it, rather comical. Imagine, if you can, one alcoholic judging another!" Describing AA's two greatest

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enemies in a lecture at the Yale School of Medicine in 1945 Bill W. suggests self-pity and intolerance. My hope is that we never forget the welcoming spirit of our co-founders that made our fellowship what it is today.

Patty L., Area 16 Chairperson, opened the business session of the Area 16 Service Assembly with the Serenity Prayer, read first in Spanish then followed in English. The meeting was opened at 9:20 a.m.

### **Business Meeting:**

**Recognize past Area officers:** Brookins B., past Delegate/Secretary, Joycie W. past Delegate, David S. past Delegate, David M. past Delegate/Treasurer, Tom H. past Secretary, Harold I. past Treasurer, Glenda M. past Secretary, Bill M. past Treasurer, Ernie M. past Secretary, Katy M. past Secretary, Patty L. past Delegate/Secretary

### **Report of the 60<sup>th</sup> Prepaid Convention – Atlanta, GA – 2013 – Art H. (Chair):**

Convention will be held at Hyatt Regency Atlanta. Thursday October 17 to Sunday October 20. Chet G. – Program Committee Chair: golf tournament Saturday October 19 at 8 a.m. at Bobby Jones golf course. 6 AA speakers and 2 AI-Anon speakers, first ever Spanish speaker with translation available. Emphasis on young people Thursday night. Need hosts for speakers. Also will have 8 regular meetings, including newcomers and Spanish meeting, sponsored by groups in Atlanta. Saturday afternoon will be a service workshop. Katy M. – Entertainment chair: Thursday night young people's dance, Friday karaoke, 5k fun run Saturday morning, motorcycle poker run at 9 a.m., big dance Saturday night at 10 and also coffee-house music. Sally Y.-Hospitality chair: we need single-serve portion baked goods and volunteers. Hospitality Room will open at 2pm Thursday, need at least 2 people per shift. Lynn T.-Facilities chair: Rooms must be reserved by September 29. Room rate is available 3 days before and after. Phone number 888-421-1442. Code is GAAP. Have Centennial Ballroom reserved, we need volunteers. Parking is \$19 per night at hotel and \$9.50 for motorcycles. Also have alternative parking on website. No pets allowed. Coffee shop in hotel will be open 24 hours, and hotel is connected to Marta station. Joy – Registration Co-Chair: Please register online or from flyer. Volunteer meeting Oct. 5 at NABA at 12:30. 1024 people registered so far. Mark J – Outreach Chair: Thanked volunteers who manned tables this weekend. A little over 100 people registered yesterday. We need 25% of registrants to volunteer, 250-300 people. Asked people to raise their hands with different reasons why they couldn't come to Prepaid. We are people who would not normally mix, but at Prepaid we mix. Art: Please come to Prepaid.

**Report from Patty on 2015 International Convention:** Patty has been selected to chair Volunteer Host Committee. Tom H. will be co-chair. Dates are July 2-5, 2015. Big volunteer meeting in January 2015 and we will not collect names for volunteers until late 2014. Hotel info is not yet released. We are only responsible for volunteers. Will need several thousand volunteers.

### **Report from Billy N., General Service Trustee, AAWS Director:**

There are 21 trustees, 14 are Class B (alcoholic) and 7 are Class A (non-alcoholic). Out of Class B's there are Regional, At Large and General Service Trustee. I also serve on the AAWS Board as Treasurer. I serve as Vice Chair of Trustee's Committee on International Convention. We look forward to having people volunteer,

even if only for a few hours. 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Big Book is going forward, going through first edition in painstaking detail. Reassured everyone that the reproduction will not become a monetary item (eg. a collector's item). It is not priced to be a "moneymaker" it is priced to be prudent to the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition. Book will be out in March or April. In the 90s, it was determined that the average reading level for most AA literature was 5 to 6 grades higher than most inmates in the U.S. The Big Book has the highest reading level of any book we have due to words per page and type of words used. The new "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell" talks about 12 steps. Font is much larger. Portable Big Book is the most common book sent into correctional facilities, but has the highest reading level. New Big Book for correctional facilities has been approved. It will be like the Mini but large print.

A few years ago website experts were hired to critique aa.org. They determined that the homepage was too distracting. 3 types of people land on landing page: people who want to stop drinking, professionals and members who need information. Website redesign will focus on these needs and the new website will appear by next year, e-books will be out by the end of the year. We do not have copyright to first edition because it can be sold by anyone. We know that the original, hard-cover Big Book is not going away, but we have noticed the portable Big Book is being replaced by electronic literature, so we are moving very quickly with this project.

The Conference inventory process was surprisingly seamless, I think it went so well we should do it every year. Inventory reports will be available and for 2 more years inventory will be taken. The 2020 International will be in Detroit, 2025 will be in Montreal, St. Louis or Vancouver and after November board meeting, 2025 location will be announced.

**David M., Area Chair:** It was a long way from October of 1987 for my first conscious AA meeting. I will continue to be around. So many people have been a part of this. I found out there was more to the world than the Hawkinsville group. It will be different, but I've got some good mentors. All of these friends have been here for me, when my spouse died, so many people have given me strength. Area 16 is highly respected in this country. Forever I will be Panel 58 Area 16 Delegate.

### **Area Officer's Reports:**

**Rebecca T., Alternate Delegate:** Upcoming events: Saturday at state office Corrections Training from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. October 17-20 Prepaid, Nov. 9 Metro Cluster Forum in Smyrna. Southern States AA Service Assembly in Baton Rouge November 1-3. DCM Planning Meeting in Macon November 16.

### **Shari M., Secretary:**

Attendance Report for the September Assembly:

DCMs	41
Alternate DCMs	30
District Secretaries/Treasurers	5
GSRs	271
Alternate GSRs	65
Group Secretaries/Treasurers	39

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Grapevine Reps	14
Treatment Facilities Reps	8
Correctional Facilities Reps	25
Communications	4
PI/CPC Reps	9
Archives Reps	6
Members	78
Total Attendance	590

Minutes to be approved this morning will include Addendum to May 2013 minutes. DCMs received a folder with group information forms, please update and bring back to DCM planning meeting November 16.

### **Gene T., Treasurer:**

Group contributions have picked up. Down about \$5,000 but with literature sales we should come out January 1 even. It costs \$30,000 to put on Assembly. \$1581 collected right now. \$23.90 is cost per person to break even. Please say a prayer for Buddy. Baskets were passed.

Patty announced to look for handout on taping services to help explain motion that will be voted on in Old Business. CDs of Assembly are for sale in the back. We have evaluation forms available. We will not be making a circle when we close with the Lord's Prayer to make it easier for everyone to say prayer.

### **Old Business:**

Approval of Minutes from May 2013 Area Business Meeting.

### **Report from We Share Our Georgia Experience, Claudia S.:**

This weekend is the deadline to get your group history in. October 1 we will have updated list of groups who have submitted their information. Next step will be to edit. By September 2014 we hope to have a solid draft and hope to have the book complete by 2015. We need to pre-sell as many as we can. Books must be ordered in groups of 5, must be ordered on website.

Motion on floor tabled from last Assembly: That the person who tapes the Assembly is permanently given the Prepaid. Patty answered several questions, clarified that we cannot amend motion without the maker of the motion present. Candice, GSR Miracles Happen made motion to table this motion until next Assembly. Patty stated that people who made motion are not here. Candice made motion to call the question, Chris M. GSR Wrightsville Serenity Group seconded. 2/3 in favor of calling the question. 2/3 in opposition to motion by show of hands. Minority opinion offered by Jennifer, 16F.

### **New Business:**

**Approve Theme for 2014: Communicating our Legacies, Vital in a Changing World.** Supported by show of hands.

**Approval of PICPC Chair and Co-Chair, LeAnne O. and Chase S.** Approved by show of hands

Gene: We collected \$4670.90 in baskets, record for cash collection in baskets .

Patty: Southeastern Conference will be in 2017. Per our manual we should be taking bids for Prepaid and 2017 Conference in January 2014, can we put aside guidelines in manual and allow bids to happen on normal Prepaid schedule in 2015? Approved by show of hands.

### **Election of Delegate and Alternate Delegate:**

Patty reviewed election process, Shari conducted roll call for ballot counts.

Round 1:

Cathy B.: 3

Bill F.: 28

Chet G.: 7

Ernie M.: 46

Tony P.: 10

Rebecca T.: 187

Round 2:

Cathy B.: 2

Bill F.: 11

Chet G.: 0

Ernie M.: 17

Tony P.: 0

Rebecca T.: 252

**Rebecca T.  
elected Delegate**

Alternate Delegate:

Round 1:

Cathy B.: 8

Bill F.: 120

Chet G.: 7

Ernie M.: 131

Tony P.: 11

Round 2:

Cathy B.: 3

Bill F.: 115

Chet G.: 0

Ernie M.: 157

Tony P.: 3

Round 5:

Bill F.: 89

Ernie M.: 184

**Ernie M. elected Alternate Delegate**

### **General Sharing:**

Laura T. GSR 5A, made motion to close. Patty asked her to hold off.

Diane M. GSR Clarkston 12 Step: That the person who tapes the Area Assembly is given the Prepaid Convention. John R. GSR Swainsboro Group seconded. Motion amended to: That the person who tapes the Area Assembly is given the Prepaid Convention that year.

Tom, GSR Lilburn Third Tradition made motion to table until January 2014 Assembly. Marlene District 6 GSR seconded.

Joe R., GSR There is a Solution 13A made the motion "That the aageorgia.org website be permitted to provide web links to the following outside vendors, provided that a disclaimer page is shown as user exits our website. 1. The Area Assembly host hotel 2. The Georgia Prepaid Convention Host Hotel 3. The current payment provider for our literature. Motion was tabled and ad hoc committee will be appointed to study it.

Laura T. GSR 5A, made motion to close. Rusty GSR 16A seconded.

Motion to adjourn: Chris M., GSR Wrightsville Serenity Group, motion to adjourn, seconded by Ralph M., GSR Fresh Start Group, seconded.

Closed with Lord's Prayer in Spanish, then followed in English at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted  
Shari M.

Area 16 Secretary



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### **Birthday Contributions**

#### **District 1, Zone B**

Americus Group  
Dennie L. – August 19, 2002

#### **District 6**

Highland Group  
Claudia S. – September 18, 1993

#### **District 8**

I Am Responsible Group  
Fran L. – September 12, 2011  
Phyllis C. – May 28, 2010  
Wesley B. – July 1, 2011  
Milledgeville Group  
John L. – September 14, 1998  
Wrightsville Serenity Group  
Chris M. – 4 Years  
Theresa C. – July 1, 2011

#### **District 10, Zone A**

We Can Help Group  
Anonymous – July 13, 1996

#### **District 10, Zone D**

Senoia Second Chance Group  
Debi K. – July 11, 2003

#### **District 10, Zone E**

Consolidated Group  
Jennifer W. – August 5, 2013

#### **District 11, Zone B**

No Name Nooners Group  
Lisa H. – July 27, 2009

#### **District 13**

Ben D. – September 21 32 Years

#### **District 14, Zone A**

Redmond Group  
David J. – October 6, 1985

#### **District 16, Zone A**

A Vision For You Group  
Kelly W. – August 1, 2006

#### **District 16, Zone B**

Jim T. – August 1, 2007  
Cobb Group  
Richard S. – August 21, 1978  
Alumni Group  
Randy P. – August 17, 1991

#### **District 16, Zone E**

Chestatee Group  
Rufus S. – June 24, 2007

#### **District 17**

Sobriedad Latina Group  
Alirio B.  
Carlos C. 8 anos  
Hilario M. 13 anos  
Israbel 14 anos  
Odilio 8 anos  
Pablo G. – Novembre 10, 2010

### **New Groups**

#### **District 13 Zone A**

Bill & Bob's Excellent  
Adventures Group  
Journey Christian Church  
11365 Crabapple Rd.  
Roswell, GA 30075  
Meets Tuesday at 8:00 p.m.

#### **District 13 Zone A**

Roswell 11<sup>th</sup> Step Meditation  
814 Memosa Blvd.  
Roswell, GA 30075  
Meets Sundays at 8:00 a.m.

#### **District 13 Zone K**

Better Life Group  
First Baptist Church  
4330 North Ave.  
Powder Springs, GA 30127  
Meets Sunday at 8:00 p.m.  
Open

#### **District 16 Zone B**

Freedom Group  
Project Adam #2  
112 Lanthier St.  
Winder, GA 30682  
Meets Wednesday at 6:35 p.m.  
and Saturday at Noon; Open

**A Co-chair is needed for the  
Communications Committee.  
Here is your chance to do service  
work while working with our  
website, newsletter, translators  
and more. Please email communi-  
cations@aageorgia.org for more  
details.**

### **SUGGESTED SELF-SUPPORT PLAN**

Our fellowship must be self-supporting. We offer a suggested support plan for the GSRs to share with their groups. By being self-supporting, we can fully discharge our responsibilities to our beautiful fellowship in Georgia.

In those Districts and Zones where there is no central office, we suggest that the income, after all group expenses have been paid, be allocated as follows:

State Office, Macon – 50%, GSO – 30%, Pre-Paid Convention – 10%, District/Zone – 10%

In Atlanta, Augusta and any other District/Zone which supports a central office, we suggest that the income, after all group expenses have been paid, be allocated as follows:

Central Office – 35% State Office, Macon – 30%, GSO – 20%, Pre-Paid Convention – 10%, District/Zone – 5% or whatever percentages are in accordance with your group conscience.

Mailing addresses:

**GSSA** (State office) 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.*

### **Have You....**

- Reserved your room in Macon for the January Assembly?
- Made your AA birthday contribution?
- Pre-ordered your We Share II copies?
- Worked with another alcoholic today?

There's still time! Any questions contact [gssa@aageorgia.org](mailto:gssa@aageorgia.org).

## Ask It Basket Questions GSR Workshop—September 21, 2013

Gene

1. Why, oh, why have you stopped having the District(s) with 100% contributions stand up? Please start it up again, like maybe tomorrow. Signed, "Guess Who".

We (Office Committee) decided to stop doing that because it was embarrassing to those who could never get 100%. The percentages are still there but we don't announce it from the podium.

2. In my Group Conscience, members have claimed that we should only give monies to The GSO because the GSSA doesn't need money - they keep a year's reserve. How much reserve is actually kept and why?

Currently we have a prudent reserve for 6 1/2 months, and as you mentioned were working at a deficit, so we haven't had money to put back.

David M.

1. Is there any help someone could get from the government or state for starting an AA club house?

There is no such thing as an "AA Club House." Please refer to AA's guidelines for clubhouses. They are available from GSSA and GSO. Such clubs should be incorporated or created as a separate entity from AA. As a separate non-profit organization it can set its own bylaws. Some of these organizations choose to follow AA Traditions very strictly and not accept any money from outside sources. Others choose to accept money from outside sources such as United Way or other charitable groups. Since the clubhouse operates outside of AA it has to adopt its own guidelines.

2. Some groups say "Keep coming back; it works if you work it" after the Lord's Prayer. Other groups don't and frown upon it. What does GSSA say about it?

GSSA has no opinion on that practice. It should be determined by the group conscience of each group or meeting. Some people like to use such sayings as an expression of their excitement about recovery. Others have referred to it as "chanting" and think it is not appropriate for meetings. Neither AA or GSSA have an opinion about it.

Tom

1. How did it come about closing meetings at GSSA with the Lord's Prayer? Wouldn't it be more welcoming to use a more inclusive prayer such as the "we version" of the Serenity Prayer?

2. In consideration of those in AA that are not Christian, would it be possible to use something else such as the "we version" of the Serenity Prayer"? How did GSSA decide on using the Lord's Prayer?

Answer for #1 and #2

The practice of using the Lord's Prayer to close meetings undoubtedly came from the Oxford Group, whose history in the beginning of AA is cited in "AA Comes of Age." The Oxford Groups used that prayer to close their meetings and it naturally became a tradition in many AA regions. When I close a meeting using the Lord's Prayer, I preface it with, "Will those who care to join me in the Lord's Prayer." That preface was also common practice in the early days of AA. Bill W. felt that since most in AA had some belief in a power greater than themselves that the non-believers could practice a little tolerance while standing quietly with the group as the prayer was recited. I would guess that the tradition spilled over to the Assembly as it did from the Oxford Groups to the AA groups. At GSSA we have recently alternated closing statements the Responsibility Statement, Serenity Prayer and Lord's Prayer, although at the September Assembly I think it was forgotten to alternate closing prayers. As far as using something more welcoming or considerate of non-Christian members I would agree that the "we version" might help. I do think Bill had a point about tolerance, and while I would

ask for some understanding of differences in beliefs to non-believers when using the Lord's Prayer, equal tolerance should be practiced by believers when using an alternate prayer.

3. What is cross-talk? Does AA have published material related to defining and managing cross-talk in meetings? AA does not have literature address cross-talk. Depending on who you ask, cross-talk can be addressing someone directly after a share in rebuttal form or simply in the meeting while the meeting is going on.

Rebecca

1. When was the Prepaid changed from Jekyll Island to Atlanta?

I am unaware of a change of the Prepaid for 2013. Each May the Assembly votes on who will host our Prepaid 2 years out. In May 2011 we voted for Atlanta to host in 2013 and in May 2012 we voted for Jekyll Island to host in 2014.

Shari

1. When I came into AA in 2008, my Home Group membership was about 20. Today it is 5 people. What has happened to AA in small towns?

To answer this question, I consulted my favorite pamphlet, The AA Group. It states: "Group problems may include such common AA questions as: How can we boost lagging attendance at meetings? Almost every group problem can be solved through the process of an informed group conscience, AA principles and our Twelve Traditions. Some groups find that their GSR or DCM can be helpful. For all involved, a good sense of humor, cooling-off periods, patience, courtesy, willingness to listen and to wait—plus a sense of fairness and trust in a "power greater than ourselves"—have been found far more effective than legalistic arguments or personal accusations." I'm not sure that this is a problem specific to small towns. In my own home group our attendance seems to fluctuate and I live in a fairly large city. In my opinion, if the members who do attend regularly show commitment to the group, are active in group service and are practicing the principles and Traditions of the program, the group will survive through the leaner times and attract more members as the result of these actions.

2. How do I accept my inner most self and where do I start? I have found that working the 12 steps to the best of my ability has improved my life in every respect - mental, emotional, spiritual and physical.

Billy

1. What do you think of Singleness of Purpose?

I like to think I believe in the same 3rd Tradition that Bill Wilson did. I love the "Long Form" of the Traditions because they are so clear. The Third Tradition says AA ought to include all those who suffer from alcoholism. When I work with a newcomer I focus on their alcoholism and not other issues. I am not concerned about any other problem, it is none of my business.

I do not believe in publicly humiliating a newcomer just because they say the wrong thing in an AA meeting. Instead I was taught to speak to them from a place of compassion after the meeting.

Above all I try and remember that Bill W. wrote the 3rd Tradition to allow people to come in and find out if they are Alcoholic, not keep people out of AA.