

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

## Our Third Legacy

By Tom H.  
Area 16 Delegate

At the September Assembly we elected a new Area Secretary, Shari M., and a new Area Treasurer, Gene T. Please join me in welcoming them both into their respective roles which begin in January. Rotating out of the secretary and treasurer positions are Ernie M. and Don M. Also rotating out from Area level positions at the end of this year are Harold W. (Corrections) and Jimmy S. (Treatment/Special Needs/Accessibility). And David S., past Delegate, was approved as our nomination for SE Regional Trustee and that election will take place at the General Service Conference in the Spring of next year. It has been a privilege to walk beside all of these folks. I have learned something from all of you and I admire your dedication to give back to the program that saved all of our lives.

Our September Assembly is of course our election Assembly. Elections happen only once per year and for those who have witnessed it the Third Legacy procedure of collecting and counting ballots takes time. While the Third Legacy procedure may not be the best method for choosing all service positions within AA it is the method suggested by Bill W. for selecting the Delegates and Trustees and it is the method we use here in Area

“Elections happen only once per year and for those who have witnessed it the Third Legacy procedure of collecting and counting ballots takes time. While the Third Legacy procedure may not be the best method for choosing all service positions within AA it is the method suggested by Bill W. for selecting the Delegates and Trustees and it is the method we use here in Area 16. “

16. If you are wondering why we use this method you will find some good reasons in the latest edition (2011-2012) of the AA Service Manual by reading Concept IX on pgs. 34-40. The voting procedure itself can be found

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November/December 2012  
Volume 46, Numbers 11-12

on pgs. S21 & S22. And a short essay on the Eligibility to Vote can be found on page S37 (In Area 16 we have a couple of slight modifications to this procedure). I encourage this reading as it reminds us about the importance of good leadership.

Have you ever noticed how the candidate receiving the most votes after Round 1 suddenly gets a lot more votes in Round 2? If you are a GSR reading this and have changed your vote after Round 1 I'd like to know why you changed. My guess would be because it is a long process and we all just want to get out of there. However, the Third Legacy process begins to eliminate candidates after the 2nd Round and we should let the process change our vote if our candidate is eliminated. In my opinion, we should stick to our candidate until the process either elects or eliminates them. Just something to think about as you read the pages I mentioned above.

As we near the end of the calendar year many groups and districts will be electing new GSRs and DCMs. Your election process will probably not take as long as elections during the September Assembly but that doesn't make them less important. We should always try and select the best candidate for the job. And that person is not necessarily the one who leaves for a bathroom break during voting!

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

## Applying the principles

By Rebecca T.  
Area 16 Alternate Delegate

It is hard to believe the Holidays are upon us. During this time of year, I need to be more attentive to the 12th Step & 12th Tradition. Some of the questions I need to ask myself – am I “practicing these principals in all of my affairs”? Am I “placing principles before personality”? Am I watching for new comers or visitors in my Home group and meetings I attend regularly? Am I considerate of Home Group

members who may be having a tough time? Am I aware of H.A.L.T.?

Over the next couple of months there is more demand on our time. Some of the events are exciting, while others are obligations. If I take the principals of the program into all areas of my life then I can enjoy the Holidays. Also, if I take one occasion at a time, I do much better. I need to be honest and know it is ok to say no or ask if a plan can be altered.

When placing principles before personality, I need to ask myself what is the purpose for me being at a func-

tion. There may be obligations which I may not want to attend, however if I can remember my primary purpose, then I can enjoy the gathering. During the Holidays you may have visitors in your Home Group. I have a responsibility to make sure the doors are open. Also, to be aware of current members who may be having a tough time throughout the Holiday Season.

Happy Holidays and see you at the January assembly.

**'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.'**

**TREASURER / treasurer@aageorgia.org**

**My part**

By Don M.  
Area 16 Treasurer

My part of the Seventh Tradition means so much more than just giving money to pay for the coffee. It means being accepted for myself by belonging to a group. For the first time I can be responsible because I have a choice. I can learn the principles of working out problems in my daily life by getting involved in the business of AA. By being self-supporting, I can give back to AA what AA gave to me! Giving back to AA not only ensures my own sobriety, but allows me to buy insurance that AA will be here for my grandchildren." DAILY REFLECTIONS, Page 220.

**BIRTHDAY CONTRIBUTIONS**

**District 3, Zone A**

Today Group  
Merrilyn G. August 2, 2009  
Kris H. – August 6, 2010

**District 4**

McRae Group  
Donnie P. – October 14, 1989

**District 5, Zone B**

7:30 Happy Hour Group  
Robin G. – April 27, 1991

**District 5, Zone C**

Patricia L. July 4, 1986  
New Women's Group  
August 5, 2009

**District 6**

College Step Study Group  
Bill B. – October 15, 2002

**District 8**

Milledgeville Group  
John L September 14, 199  
24 Hour Group  
Russ H. – July 22, 1996

**End of an adventure**

By Ernie M.  
Area 16 Secretary

This being my last article for the message brings not only some sadness, but a lot of gratitude. Congratulations to Shari and Gene, our new Secretary and Treasurer. Please support them as you have supported Don and me. In my first Article for the Message I spoke of beginning a new adventure. What a wonderful trip it has been! I have come to appreciate my time in service to the Area and have learned

**District 10, Zone B**  
Douglas County Group  
Anita T. – August 13, 2002

**District 10, Zone D**  
Senoia Second Chance Group  
Debi K. – July 11, 2003

**District 10, Zone E**  
Consolidated Group  
Gail T. – August 4, 1989  
Jennifer W. – August 5, 2009

**District 11, Zone A**  
Deborah K.

**District 13, Zone J**  
Gem City Group  
Tom H. – June 10, 1988

**District 13, Zone K**  
Depot Group  
Michael P. – September 15, 2004

**District 16, Zone B**  
Alumni Group  
Randy P. – August 17, 1991

**District 16, Zone E**  
Chestatee Group  
Randy R. – July 7, 2011

SEND YOUR  
BIRTHDAY  
CONTRIBUTION TO:

G.S.S.A.  
P.O. BOX 7325  
MACON, GA 31209

**SECRETARY / secretary@aageorgia.org**

a lot. I have seen humility, service and transparency in action during the last two years. My utmost thanks for the privilege of working with our Treasurer, Don M.

All Districts/Zones now have their own mailbox available on the Area Website. Your DCMs can communicate with other Districts/Zone and also receive current information from the Area as needed. Our communications via the website has surpassed all expectations. Please be sure to update all your group information forms that the DCMs received at the Assembly

and will bring back to the DCM meeting in November.

Last, but not least, I wish you all a joyous holiday season, and many thanks for allowing me to be of service these past two years. It has been a pleasure to be part of the service structure of Area 16 and to have the wonderful office manager we have in Tamera. If I can be of any help to your District/Zone in the future, please feel free to ask. See y'all next year! Please continue to send your District/Zone minutes to: districtminutes@aageorgia.org.

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

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**ABOUT THIS ISSUE**

Hello Everyone, I am excited about this Issue because it contains so much interesting information! Please be sure to read all the Committee Reports, there is so much going on in every area. Also, the minutes report what happened at the Assembly, new officers and saying good bye and job well done to the ones rotating off. Keep up with up and coming events from the calendar and other pertinent information. It is such a pleasure for me to be the stand-in Editor while we are looking for a replacement for Jane, who is sorely missed. Thank you, and see you next time.

- Bill F., Area 16 Communications Chair

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Contributing editors include Karen F., Janie C. and Communications Committee Chair Bill F. and Co-Chair Chuck L. Designer: Shari M. Tamera P. and volunteers print and deliver. Contact: editor@aageorgia.org

**CORRECTIONS / corrections@aageorgia.org**

## The year in review

By Harold W., Chair  
and Jim T., Co-Chair  
Area 16 Corrections Committee

As 2012 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 end of September, by the numbers:

- 458 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. This includes the 200 Big

Books that were delivered to the West Central Integrated Treatment Facility in Zebulon in March.

- 269 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.
- 93 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 entering any Georgia Department of Corrections facilities.
- 21 of the 33 state prisons now have

AA meetings established, with seven 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 by 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.

**GRAPEVINE / grapevine@aageorgia.org**

## Suggestion for Thanksgiving

By Joan M., Chair  
Area 16 Grapevine Committee

In 1949 Bill wrote the Grapevine article "A Suggestion for Thanksgiving". The first thing that popped into my head was "Gratitude". But that was not his suggestion. It was to "adopt Thanksgiving week as a time for meetings and meditation on the Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous".

Bill started the discussion of the Traditions in an article written for the Grapevine in April, 1946. By that time, Alcoholics were staying sober, and

the question now was the unity of Alcoholics Anonymous: "how to preserve among us AAs such a powerful unity that neither weakness of persons nor the strain and strife of these troubled times can harm our common cause. We know that Alcoholics Anonymous must continue to live. Else, save few exceptions, we and our fellow alcoholics throughout the world will surely resume the hopeless journey to oblivion."

From "A Suggestion for Thanksgiving", Bill writes, "The Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous are a distillate of our experience of living and working together. They apply the spirit of the Twelve recovery Steps to our

group life and security. They deal with our relations with the world outside and with each other; they state our attitudes toward power and prestige, toward property and money. They would save us from tempting alliances and major controversies; they would elevate principles far above personal ambitions. And as a token of this last, they request that we maintain personal anonymity before the open public as a protection to AA and as proof of the fact that our Society intends to practice true humility."

I have immense gratitude for the Twelve Traditions. They, like the Steps, have helped save my life.

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

## 11th Tradition

By Ed T., Chair  
and LeAnne O., Co-Chair  
Area 16 Public Information/Cooperation  
with the Professional Community  
Committee

August 25th, as I drove through the mountains to the Northwest Cluster Forum in Dalton, Georgia, I couldn't help but feel the presence of my High Power whom I chose to call God. There is nothing like the mountain views to assure you of God's handy work. I truly enjoyed the Cluster Forum that 10B, 10E, 14A, 14B, 14C, 14D 15A and 15B put on. They did a great job. I ate too much as usual. As I drove home, I hated leaving the mountains and coming back to what we call civilization (no comparison!) September 14-16 we had a great turnout at our 11AM workshop in Macon. We discussed ten guidelines for non AA talks, then had volunteers

come forward and give mock talks for one on one practice at non AA events. After they were through, people would ask the speakers some questions that they thought a non AA person would ask, i. e. 'how much does it cost to join AA?', 'what education is required' etc etc (What fun!) At the 9:30 PM workshop, we shared regarding the effectiveness of the language of the short form of Tradition 11 in addressing the needs of the Fellowship today as requested by Mary Cumings at G. S.O.

There was lots of mixed discussion on the topic - some people for change, but most for not changing. We were also requested to discuss the new membership survey, what we used it for and how effective did we find it in PI/CPC work. Thanks to Leanne O.'s great notes, the results will be sent to Mary C. at G. S.O. in New York. We wish you safe and sober holidays.

Hope to have seen you at the October prepaid.

### We were also

requested to discuss the new membership survey, what we used it for and how effective did we find it in PI/CPC work.

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

### New ideas

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

Hello everyone, I am so excited about all that is going on in the Communications arena, particularly about the Assembly.

First, we had two new Translators at tending, Amparo and Suzie. With the help and guidance of Richard, the team made the Assembly a great experience for the Hispanic community. So many good things are happening with the Translation Team, but we still need more volunteers for both written and verbal translation. Please see the new volunteer form on the website. Speaking of the Website, at the Website Committee meeting, our new GSR, Andrew N., gave his report on Search Engine Optimization, or SEO. The study is to improve how search engines, such as Google and Bing, see our website and how efficiently various sections of our website can be

accessed more quickly without having to go to our home page. As you may know, the Website is under the wing of both Communications and PI/CPC, and this study will help both our members and people seeking information about AA to get the information they are looking for as quickly and easily as possible.

I was also impressed by the reception of our Assembly Evaluation Form, which is also available interactively on the Website. Chuck L, Co-Chair, is in the process of summarizing the results of the Evaluation Forms that were handed in at the end of the Assembly. WE also discussed the Green Dots that were given to our first time attendees at the assembly. These were not meant to embarrass anyone, but to help answer any questions. A suggestion was made to ask for Greeters to assist new attendees. Good idea? I know I had lots of questions I was afraid to ask at my first Assembly! Thanks for allowing me to serve

### NEXT MESSAGE DEADLINE

The deadline for the articles for the Message for January and February is December 1. There is no subscription fee for this newsletter, however, all contributions are appreciated. Please mail to: GSSA, P.O. Box 7325, Macon, GA 31209. The Georgia Message of AA is published by Area 16.

TREATMENT / [treatment@aageorgia.org](mailto:treatment@aageorgia.org)

### Spirit of rotation

By Jimmy S., Chair and Willie S., Co-Chair  
Area 16 Treatment Committee

The September 2012 Assembly was a happy, joyful and carefree gathering of AA members with a singleness of purpose - how to better carry the AA message to the still suffering Alcoholic. I want to take this opportunity to thank the Georgia State Service Assembly and Area 16 for giving me the chance to serve on the Treatment Committee. I am very grateful. And as every trusted servant knows what the spirit of rotation means, on January 1,

2013 Willie S. will need some help, so if any AA member would like to be considered for the position of Co-Chair of the Treatment Committee please send your resume to our Area 16 Delegate, Tom H., at the GSSA office. At the GSSA business meeting, the Special Needs Accessibilities - Ad Hoc Committee gave a Report & Recommendation on the Treatment Facilities Committee name change and revised description needed for the Area 16 Service Manual (pp. 20-21). It is my hope that all AA members and groups will discuss this issue so it can proceed to the next level. For a copy

of the report, please go to the Area 16 website [www.aageorgia.org](http://www.aageorgia.org) and look under Reports, but remember that it is password protected.

Practical experience shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics. It works when other activities fail (Alcoholic Anonymous, p.89). As a member of the Treatment Committee, I have found this to be true; I want to stay sober today, and so can you. If you would care to volunteer your services to help others, please consider calling or emailing this Committee.

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

### We Share II

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

“We Share”, “We Share”, “We Share II”. Just in case you don't know, “We Share” is a book containing the group histories of some of the AA groups in Georgia, through 1993. We thought most groups were represented in this first printing, but Tamera did some research, and found out that is not the case. In fact less than half the groups that are registered at GSO, are in this first printing.

“We Share II”, the second printing, has a goal of representing all the reg-

istered group in the state of Georgia. What an order, yes it is, so we decided to ask Tamera to join the “We Share” Committee. She graciously and very excitedly, accepted. Tamera brings some much needed organizational skills, along with passion for the fellowship.

If you are not sure if your group is in the first printing, look at the Area 16 web site. Look under service, archives, and you will see a PDF of “We Share” that you can view. The book is laid out in numerical district order. We hope to have a list of all groups that have contributed to the new printing, and / or those who have not, by January 2013.

The time line is set and the ball is rolling towards a deadline of next September, 2013. Please don't wait, get your group's information to us as quickly as possible. You can email to the archives web site, or directly to Tamera at the GSSA office. The book will pre-sell for \$11.00 and will be sold in groups of 10. We hope to have this set up by the first quarter of 2013.

Lastly, John Basch, archives co-chair, has transferred the first two reel to reel to a digital format. This has taken a lot of time and patience. We listened to the first CD at the October assemble. Come hear Ebby Thacher (CD) speak at the January assembly.

**CALENDAR**

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

**Nov. 3**

Metro Cluster Forum  
Powder Springs  
Includes (13A,13B,13D,13E,13F,13G,13H,13I,13J,13K)

**Nov. 9-11**

Southeast Regional Forum  
Boca Raton, FL

**Nov. 17**

DCM Planning Meeting  
Macon/GSSA Office  
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**NEW GROUPS**

**District 3 Zone B**

BYOB Group  
1st Presbyterian Church  
West Conyers St.  
St Mary's, GA 31558  
Meets on Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.

**District 5 Zone C**

Saturday Night Live Group  
24 Hour Clubhouse  
1501 Eisenhower Dr.  
Savannah, GA 31406  
Meets on Saturday at 10:00 p.m.

**District 16 Zone B**

The Jefferson Group  
Jefferson Presbyterian Church  
243 Washington St.  
Jefferson, GA 30549  
Meets on Monday at 8:00 p.m.

**District 16 Zone D**

Chapter 11 Group  
Gwinnett Room  
191 Plainview Dr.  
Lawrenceville, GA 30045  
Meets Daily at 11:00 p.m.

**WE SHARE OUR GEORGIA EXPERIENCE**

Have you heard the news? We are re-publishing the history of Alcoholics Anonymous in Area 16, "We Share Our Georgia Experience." So, it's time to get your group's history in so that it can be included!

If you would like to read the original "We Share" book in PDF form, please go to:

<http://www.aageorgia.org/archives.html>

You will also find on this page forms to submit your group history (both English and Spanish). You can submit your group's history online directly, or you can print a PDF of the group history form and write or type it, then mail it in. Instructions are included on this page. So please participate, we hope to have the new edition published in time for the International Convention which will be held in Atlanta in 2015!

**THINGS WE CANNOT CHANGE**

Jackie B.  
Sobriety Date: June 6, 2011  
Passed: June 23, 2012  
Home Group: Three Legacies Group  
T, Georgia

Faye B.  
Sobriety Date: March 6, 2010  
Passed October 3, 2012  
Home Group – Stonewall Group  
LaGrange, GA

**Scott M.**  
Sobriety Date: May 15, 2004  
Passed: September 20, 2012  
Home Group: New Pass It On  
Savannah, Georgia

**Bonnie N.**  
Sobriety Date: March 9, 1983  
Passed: September 6, 2012  
Home Group: Tift Area Group  
Tifton, Georgia

**MARRIOTT MACON 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 GEORGIA STATE SERVICE ASSEMBLY, TO GET THE GROUP RATE. PLEASE REMEMBER THE CUT OFF DATE IS JANUARY 4, 2013.**

**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:  
G.S.S.A. (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.

**HOW TO CONTACT TRUSTED SERVANTS**

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

- A. Use the official email addresses for Area 16 trusted servants located on articles, in our service directory and on [aageorgia.org](http://aageorgia.org).
- B. 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.

- C. The password to access password-protected web content can be obtained from the service directory, your GSR, your DCM, [webmaster@aageorgia.org](mailto:webmaster@aageorgia.org), the Area office in Macon or other trusted servants. Please provide any feedback to [communications@aageorgia.org](mailto:communications@aageorgia.org) or [editor@aageorgia.org](mailto:editor@aageorgia.org)

**Go to [aageorgia.org](http://aageorgia.org) or call 478-745-2588 for information**

**ASSEMBLY MINUTES**

**GEORGIA STATE (AREA 16)**

**ASSEMBLY MINUTES - SEP 16, 2012**

**MARRIOTT MACON CITY CENTER**

**MACON**

Patty L., Area 16 Chairperson opened the Area 16 Service Assembly. The meeting was opened at 9:00 a.m. with the Serenity Prayer in both Spanish and English.

**Delegate Report - Tom H.**

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. As I begin my report I would like to recognize new GSRs and first time attendees to this Assembly. Some of you may have noticed a green dot on some of the name badges this weekend. The significance of the green dot on name badges is so that we can easily identify new members to our Assembly and to make sure you all receive a warm welcome. I ask the members who are not here for the first time to be sure and welcome our newest service members. Another new item added this weekend is an Assembly evaluation form. We ask that you take the time to inform of us of how we are doing, provide suggestions for change, and let us know of any hotel issues you may encounter by filling out the evaluation form. It is our hope to continue to make this a powerful and positive experience for all. On that note, I would like to acknowledge the excellent structure that we have in place in Area 16. However, that well-formed structure would be meaningless if not for the amazing service leaders we are so blessed to have. At this point I would like all the Area Chairs and Co-Chairs to stand and remain standing. If you don't know these people I encourage you to get to know them. They are dedicated servants to Alcoholics Anonymous and without them it would not matter how great our service structure was. The active alcoholic does not stand a chance around these people – our Area Chairs and Co-Chairs truly go above and beyond and I thank them all from the bottom of my heart. I would like Harold and Jimmy to remain standing. These two gentlemen will rotate from their respective positions at the end of this year. They will both tell you that they are the blessed ones for having served us but trust me when I say we are the ones that have

been blessed by their service. Both of you will be missed and I thank you for your service. This weekend we will have an election to replace our Area Secretary and Area Treasurer positions. I am certain with the pool of candidates we will be in great shape whoever is elected to replace them. Though I am not really sure the word replace is proper for Ernie and Don. They have done a very fine job and will also be missed. At the January Assembly we had a presentation on Safety in AA. This topic was the workshop topic for this year's General Service Conference. At conference the Delegates and Trustees were divided into ten groups and we discussed and answered the questions posed to us. A secretary was assigned for each work group and the minutes from each work group were combined into a single document. That document has been posted on our website [www.aageorgia.org](http://www.aageorgia.org). It can be found under the 'service' tab on the home page and then under 'reports.' GSO has asked for fellowship feedback on our latest membership survey and on the effectiveness of the short form of Tradition 11th. Both of these items will be posted on our website very soon. Please participate in providing feedback. Another item I want to encourage you all to participate in is the Birthday Plan. In the Birthday Plan we are encouraged to send in one dollar for every year sober to the service entity of our choosing. On or around my A.A. birthday I send a check to three different service entities – GSSA, GSO, and my local Intergroup. I love the idea of this self-support concept because I get to decide how to show my financial gratitude and I can make sure my home group gets credit for my contribution by simply adding my home group service number to my check. So, for all those groups, like my home group, who struggle to pay the rent, make coffee, and send in a little money to support AA I can directly increase my home groups contribution to the service structure using the Birthday Plan. I'd like to ask all GSRs and DCMs to encourage members to use this wonderful self-support tool. There is an update on the eBook Project. Recently AAWS conducted an intensive review of the work on the eBook Project. One of the conclusions was that creating and maintaining AAWS eReader Apps was not sustainable in the long run. AAWS has encountered changes in technology, extensive development time, and high support costs in order to maintain these

apps. Following much thoughtful discussion of the review, the conclusion was that continued development of eReader Apps is not a practical or prudent use of GSO resources. Rather than committing more resources to this effort it was decided to end production of an Android eReader App. For the time being, we will maintain what we have created with resources already committed. Along these lines, an update to the Apple iPhone App will be released as soon as possible, and we will continue to provide support for this App. Moving ahead, AAWS has decided that the best way to make eBooks widely and easily available is to utilize eReader vendors to sell our eBooks. We will begin working toward implementation of this distribution process, with a planned release of AAWS eBooks following the 2013 General Service Conference. This new plan will be forwarded to the Conference for approval prior to implementation. It is my belief that we as a fellowship sometimes place demands on AAWS that do not pass Bill W's suggested method of using the spiritual and practical test. In other words, it may have sounded spiritual to build our own app and thereby avoiding affiliation tradition violations but it was not a practical idea. Before we make changes in AA we should make sure ideas pass both the spiritual and practical test. The cost of creating an app and supporting it is not in line with our Primary Purpose and in my opinion is being wasteful with AA's money. It makes so much more sense, and passes the spiritual and practical test, to hire a vendor to create, update, and support an eReader app while we tend to helping alcoholics find and maintain sobriety. And to link our affiliation to any such vendor as a Tradition Six violation would be like saying GSSA is affiliated to Marriott because we hold our Assemblies in this facility. I hope we stop making such affiliation comparisons just because we hire a vendor to perform services for us. This year the General Service Conference supported the idea for the General Service Board to develop a plan to restructure AAWS and AAGV. The trustees' Planning Meetings on Structure have been positive in leading to a deeper understanding of the problems. The focus has been on defining more precisely the structural and communication problems that need to be addressed. This plan is still being developed and will be presented to the 63rd

ASSEMBLY MINUTES

GSC. I just wanted to keep you posted on its progress.

I wanted to talk with you this morning about AA's 100th birthday. AA will turn 100 years old in the year 2035 – a short 23 years from now. The planning for the 2015 International Convention in Atlanta began in 2003. GSO begins planning for the International Conventions 12 years in advance. I don't believe this is enough time to plan for AA's centennial event. AA is not just held in high regard within its own fellowship, and this is reflected in the Library of Congress' recent proclamation of listing the Big Book as one of 88 books that shaped America's history. Think about that statement. The book that we study to find and maintain sobriety has been listed as one of 88 books written that shaped America's history. Stepping Stones, the home of Bill and Lois Wilson, will most likely soon be listed as a National Historical Site. Bill W. was named man of the year by Time magazine. Our hundredth birthday should be a yearlong celebration just like many other centennial celebrations. I have discussed this idea for several years and was able to pose the idea of early planning for this event at this year's GSC. I simply asked if there was a committee formed to look into this event and the answer I received was no. I was then asked to forward a proposal to the General Manager and the trustees Committee on International Conventions and Regional Forums. I want to send this proposal forward with the backing of Area 16. You will see this item under new business and the motion I hope you approve during the business meeting is as follows;

"We of Area 16, Georgia, recommend that the General Service Conference form a committee in 2013 to begin the planning for AA's 100th birthday in 2035. We feel this event is significant in our history and requires an extended planning period to consider an appropriate celebration."

Lastly, The Final Conference Reports are in the back of the room. Please take only one report per group. Before I close I want to take a minute to highlight a few items in that report.

- On page 6 you will find the GSC theme and presentation topics that we will adopt as our own in the business meeting this morning. Also on page 6 and on page 7 are the inventory questions that will be used over the next three years for the conference inventory. You may find some of these questions apply to your own group or district inventories.

- On the next few pages you will

find all of the Advisory Actions for the various conference committees.

- All of the presentations can be found on pages 10 thru 17.
- Beginning on page 20 you will find reports from the General Service Boards, AAWS, and GV Corporate Boards.
- On page 47 you will find the most important part of the Final Conference Report. That is my Area 16 highlight!
- Beginning on page 61 you will see financial reports. Now turn to page 70, look down to line 16, then across to the 4th column. That 65.5 number is the percentage of groups in our Area that send in contributions. We have the highest percentage of groups contributing in the United States! I thank you for that. Now scroll down to lines 87 thru 90 and then over to column four and you will see a few Areas in Quebec that have a higher percentage of groups contributing. I think we can beat them if we educate our members about the birthday plan! Also, at the bottom of page 71 you will see an overall decrease of 1.5% from 2010 to 2011 in group contributions. We really need to reverse that trend and I am asking for your help with this. Total operating expenses for the General Service Office were about \$13.5 million for 2011. Imagine trying to raise that amount of money one dollar at a time or from loose change in a basket? Please be as generous as you are able in financially supporting AA.

- Lastly, on pages 75 and 76 you will find a little information about our Class A and Class B trustees.

I wanted to get you to open up the Final Conference Report this morning and look through it a little bit with me in hopes it would make this information less intimidating. Perhaps in the same way going through the Big Book with someone makes it more valuable to them than just handing them the Big Book in hopes they will read it. There may be parts of the Final Conference Report that are more appealing to you than other parts. Page 47 for example. This is not a report that I will typically read cover to cover. I read it sections at a time and I hope you will as well. This concludes my report and I will now take questions.

Thank you.

**Business Meeting** -The business meeting opened at 9:23.

**Report of the 59th Prepaid Convention – Calloway Gardens – 2012**

Debbie (Chairperson) shared that all is proceeding well. This was their final

report before Convention in October. All is going well. Speakers in place and prepaid events are doing fine. See flyer online to send in money for any of these events. Registration currently is 1,011 and growing. The different committee chairpersons shared on their events. We have met occupancy requirements (actually 100 nights over-booked). If you have a block of rooms and aren't going to need all, please release as there is a waiting list. See you in Calloway Gardens!!!!

**Recognition of past Area Officers by Chairperson**

**Alternate Delegate Report - Rebecca T.**

Rebecca discussed the upcoming Area Events - GA State Prepaid Convention, Metro Atlanta Cluster Forum, Nov 3rd and DCM Planning Meeting, Nov 17th. The Southeast Regional Forum will be in Boca Raton, FL November 9th-11th. This is where GSO comes to us. We are already planning next year's Cluster Forums, with the Southwest Cluster will be Jan 12th, 2013, and our January Service Assembly will be Jan 18th-20th, 2013. Please make your room reservations early.

**Secretary Report - Ernie M.**

Attendance report for the September Assembly:

DCMs	45
Alt DCMs	31
District Secretary/Treasurers	11
GSRs	255
Alt GSRs	70
Group Secretary/Treasurers	23
Grapevine Reps	9
Treatment Facility Reps	8
Correctional Facility Reps	11
Communications	1
PI/CPC Reps	13
Archives Reps	5
Members	58
Total Attendance	540

Ernie reminded DCMs and Alternates that their District/Zone GSSA Mailboxes are now in use and he has sent several messages to all DCMs. Please use and let your Alt DCMs and Secretaries have access as this is a great way of improving our communications throughout the Area. Also please continue to send in your District/Zone Minutes to [districtminutes@aageorgia.org](mailto:districtminutes@aageorgia.org) as these minutes are used as a historical history of Georgia and a valuable communication between the District/Zone and the Area Office Committee.

*Continued in insert*

# 60th Georgia State Prepaid Convention

## Solution in Action: Georgia Celebrates 60 Years

### Atlanta, GA October 17th - 20th, 2013

#### Hyatt Regency Atlanta

265 Peachtree Street NE  
 Atlanta, GA 30303  
 404-577-1234  
 www.atlantaregency.hyatt.com

#### Room Rates

Single & Double = \$135  
 Triple Occupancy = \$160  
 Quadruple Occupancy = \$185

#### For Reservations Call:

1-888-421-1442  
 Code: GAAP

#### AA Speakers:

Stacy S. New York, NY  
 Adam T. Los Angeles, CA  
 Trish W. Roanoke, VA  
 Mathew M. Long Beach, CA  
 Rose E. Spring Hill, FL

#### AI-Anon Speakers:

Angie B. Dothan, AL  
 Phillip W. Alabaster, AL

#### Activities

Young People's Dance w/DJ -  
 Poker Run - Golf - Karaoke -  
 All Ages Dance - Open Mic -  
 Yoga - 5K Run/Walk

### 60th GA State Prepaid Convention Oct 17-20, 2013 Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Name on Badge: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check affiliation AA  AI-Anon  Alateen

**NOTE:** Out of state registrate fee AA & AI-Anon \$25.00 Alateen \$10.00 (Due at Registration) Payable to:

**60th GA State Prepaid Convention...** Mail all forms to  
**60th Prepaid Convention 4780 Ashford Dunwoody Road, Suite a PMB #161, Atlanta, GA 30338-5004**

Want to Volunteer? Should we contact you by phone \_\_\_\_\_ or email above \_\_\_\_\_

Any special needs? Wheel chair  Sight  Hearing  Other \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*For more information and to register for activities go to [www.ageorgia.org](http://www.ageorgia.org) or email [60thprepaid@ageorgia.org](mailto:60thprepaid@ageorgia.org)\*\*\*

### Treasurer Report – Don M.

As you can see on page 70/71 of the General Service Conference Final Report, Area 16 (Georgia) has the highest percentage of groups contributing to the General Service Conference. Congratulations! However, we are not fully self-supporting in our Area, as we are \$6,000 behind in contributions thus far this year. We are also \$1000 behind in Prepaid Convention contributions for the year. Please take this back to your groups and see what we can do. Don read the "Green Card" and the baskets were passed.

### Old Business:

1. Approval of minutes from the May 20, 2012 business meeting as printed in the July/August 2012 Message. Motion to accept by Sam C., and 2nd by John R., Twilight Group. Motion unanimously passed.
2. Committee on "We Share" - In January the Assembly voted to update the "We Share" book, the History of GA AA. Claudia S., our Archivist reported for the committee. Three (3) persons have been assigned to coordinate history within GA - Bill F. - Atlanta Area to include Districts 13A-K, 16A-F, and 17; Shari M.-East Coast Area to include Districts 3A-D, 4, 5A-D, 8, 9, 11A-C and 12A-B; Mandy E. - West Coast Area to include Districts 1A-B, 2A-B, 6, 7A-B, 10A-E, 14A-D and 15A-B. Committee will keep original information and retype in digital format for editing and adding new district/group information. The original book is available on line under the Archives Section on our Website for your review. Also available is a digital group information form which will ask questions about group, i.e. when started, who started, how long lasted, etc. This form is for group history or to update current information. The deadline for submitting information for the book is September 2013. Please submit your information as soon as you have it ready. The committee is planning on having the "WE SHARE II" book ready and printed in time for the 2015 International Convention.

### 3. Report from Ad Hoc Committee Treatment/Accessibilities

In January the motion was made to change Area 16 Service Manual to change the Treatment Committee name to add "Special Needs Accessibilities" to read Treatment/Special Needs Accessibilities Committee to be consistent with the General Service Conference committee. It was tabled and an Ad Hoc committee was appointed to bring back the feasibility of combining the two functions within Area 16. The committee was not able

to do so in May so report was tabled until September Assembly. Rick M., Alt DCM, 13A, Chairperson, presented committee report to the Assembly. Discussion followed report and wording change was proposed during discussion from floor.

Friendly motion made by Tom, GSR, Third Tradition Group, seconded by Damon, Breakfast Club Group to change wording. No vote was necessary as the Ad Hoc Committee readily revised its wording in the last sentence pertaining to change on Page 21 of the Service Manual from "providing advice" to "providing guidance" on Special Needs Accessibilities and the treatment facilities in their districts. Entire report is printed here and will be sent to the District Mailboxes and will also be available on the website under reports section. The Manual Change will be voted on at the January 2013 Service Assembly.

### Report:

The following members make up the committee – Gina B. DCM 7A, Fran M. Alt DCM 12A, Clint C. Alt DCM 14C, Willie S. Co-Chair Treatment Committee, and Jimmy S. Chair Treatment Committee.

Our assignment: To research adding Special Needs Accessibilities service committee to Area Treatment committee and change the name and description in the Area Manual. The name would be consistent with the General Service Conference committee Treatment/Special Needs Accessibilities. Additionally, we were asked to study the feasibility of adding Special Needs Accessibilities to Treatment. Look into the responsibilities and qualifications of the committee chair and any changes that may be necessary and then, if we are in support of this change, make recommendations. Our report should also include that our Treatment committee had taken on this function already to verify the feasibility of combining the two functions within Area 16. It has been more than two years and they feel it is no problem.

### Recommendations:

We have reviewed all available documentation including the Area 16 Service Manual, met with the Treatment Chair and co-Chair, met and discussed as a committee, and have concluded this is a good move to combine the two service functions and change the name and description to Treatment/Special Needs Accessibilities. The following Area 16 Service Manual changes are recommended:  
Page 20: Change Description (Title)

from "TREATMENT COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON" to "TREATMENT/SPECIAL NEEDS ACCESSIBILITIES CHAIRPERSON"  
Page 20: Add a new duty: "2. Become thoroughly familiar with Special Needs Accessibilities topics and the Special Needs Accessibilities Workbook."  
Pages 20-21: Re-number list of Duties/Qualifications and add #9 to list.  
Page 21: Modify existing #6 qualification from "Should be able to organize and lead particularly in his/her contacts with DCMs and GSRs, and the treatment facilities in their districts." To "Should be able to organize and lead particularly in his/her contacts with DCMs and GSRs, by providing guidance on Special Needs Accessibilities and the treatment facilities in their districts."

### New Business:

1. Motion to approve the 2013 Conference Theme: "The General Service Conference Takes It's Inventory - Our Solution in Action." Motion to accept by Amy S., Serenity by the River Group. Seconded by Ed., New Beginnings Group, Macon. Unanimously approved.
2. As Tom had spoken about in his report to the Assembly, a Motion was made by Amy S., Serenity by the River Group, and seconded by Brit S., Abbeyville Group, 2B. Motion reads: "We of Area 16, Georgia, recommend that the GSC form a committee in 2015 to begin the planning for AA's 100th birthday in 2035. We feel this event is significant in our history and requires an extended planning period to consider an appropriate celebration." After discussion/questions from the floor Dave, GSR Rule 62 Group called the question. With a unanimous show of hands, the motion was passed and Tom (our Delegate) will send the motion to GSO to have placed on the Agenda of the 2013 Conference.
3. Nomination for SE Regional Trustee - Patty read the qualifications and procedure for nomination of SE Regional Trustee. Charlie Y., GSR, Savannah Group, 5C nominated David S., Panel 56, Past Area 16 Delegate, and seconded by Elaine M., Third Step Group, 3A. David S. accepted the nomination. As there were no other nominees, a show of hands gave Area 16's support for his name to be placed in nomination by our Delegate.
4. Nomination for Trustee At-Large-US. No nominations from Area 16 presented.
5. Election of Area 16 Secretary. Ernie M. read the qualifications as outlined on page 18 of the Georgia Service Manual. (5) Candidates for Secre-

## ASSEMBLY MINUTES / Continued from front

tary: Janie C. SD 12/28/02; Brett K. SD 07/13/96; John L., SD 09/14/98; Shari M., SD 12/08/05; Andrew W., SD 05/23/06 .

Secretary Election Round 1  
Janie C. 58  
Andrew W. 15  
John L. 35  
Shari M. 121  
Brett K. 49  
Total Votes Cast: 278  
2/3: 185  
1/5: 57

Secretary Election Round 2  
Janie C. 47  
Andrew W. 4  
John L. 12  
Shari M. 204  
Brett K. 13  
Total Votes Cast: 280  
2/3: 187

Shari M. is elected Secretary in 2nd round of voting for 2013/2014.

6. Election of Area 16 Treasurer. Ernie M. read the qualifications as outlined on page 18 of the Georgia Service Manual. (3) Candidates for Treasurer: Pat F., SD 05/24/78; Christy G., SD 04/22/00; Gene T., SD 06/27/86.

Treasurer Election Round 1  
Pat F. 72  
Gene T. 120  
Christy G. 84  
Total Votes Cast: 276  
2/3: 184  
1/5: 56

Treasurer Election Round 2  
Pat F. 34  
Gene T. 184  
Christy G. 59  
Total Votes Cast: 277  
2/3: 185  
1/5: 55

Treasurer Election Round 3  
Gene T. 223  
Christy G. 40  
Total Votes Cast: 263  
2/3: 174

Gene Trevathan elected Treasurer in 3rd round of voting for 2013/2014.

### 7. General Sharing: "Open Mike":

a. Amy S. - Five Years ago this Assembly voted to send a recommendation to GSO that the Armed Forces Pamphlet be updated. Now it is being done. She remembers that being the first time she saw this Assembly unanimously agree on any consensus of opinion. Thank You All.

b. Bill Middleton (Past State Treasurer) -In reviewing the last few years of this Area's percentage of group contributions he has noticed a steady increase. Asked that Area 16 give itself a round of applause for the accomplishment and keep going.

c. Frank S. - In this last Message- "Things We Cannot Change" he wanted to remember Don Mac of the

Vidalia/Lyons Group who served as our Corrections Chairperson in '93/'94 and his contributions to Area 16.

With no further business:

- Chris M., GSR, Wrightsville Group
- Motion to Adjourn
- Ed S., GSR, New Beginnings Group
- Seconded Motion

Unanimously Approved. Meeting ended at 12:45PM with the Lord's Prayer in Spanish & then in English.

Gssa@2006