

DELEGATE / delegate@aageorgia.org

Confidential for members
November/December 2014
Volume 48, Numbers 11-12

Highlights & History

By Rebecca T.
Area 16 Delegate

What an incredible year for Area 16! It is hard to believe we are headed toward the end of 2014. The groups have spoken on several motions this year and we have made some manual/policy changes. I am so grateful to be part of AA where the groups are the ones who vote. However, it is the responsibility of our GSRs, DCMs and Area Officers to effectively communicate the background information for an informed group conscience.

In an article from the July 1960, Grapevine from Bill W. – The Conference Report, “Describing AA as “a unique means of communication,” AA’s co-founder said, “But our manner of communication, our manner of organizing ourselves for service--let us hope that this goes on changing for the better, forever. . . .”

As we prepare for rotation, the DCM meeting and the January Georgia State Service Assembly please pass along the background information regarding the Pre-paid convention motion. If you have questions or need clarification, please contact us.

The weekend after the Assembly, several of us headed to the Southeast Regional Forum in Puerto Rico. The purpose of the Regional Forums is to provide an opportunity for direct communication with some members of the General Service Board, AA World Services, AA Grapevine Corporate Board, GSO and Grapevine Staff, along with trusted servants from the region. Regional Forums are designed to improve communication and intended to be sharing sessions. The first trial Forum, referred to as a regional “mini-conference,” in 1974 was held in Atlanta. Attending the forum this year was a past delegate from Puerto Rico who was at the first forum. In 2016 the Southeast Regional Forum will be in Orlando.

Here are a few highlights from the weekend. During several of the sharing sessions members had questions about membership being flat. GSO and AAWS are taking a look at membership. Also, this year GSO conducted a membership survey. An AA member commented “we have more twelve step programs today which might affect membership totals.”

Currently 42% of the groups contribute to

GSO. In 1945 \$1.00 = \$13.00 today or in 2014 \$.08 = \$1.00 in 1945. According to the financial report 72% of the group services are funded by group contributions. Currently, translation is one of the largest departments growing to provide literature and other services. In August our Big Book reached 35 million copies.

The Grapevine is supported by subscriptions and other literature sales. Although The Grapevine cannot accept contributions, I was informed they have gift certificates. The Grapevine and LaVina gift certificates can be purchased at the price of a one year’s subscription. They can be given as gifts, prizes, to Corrections, PI/CPC, Treatment or other committees to reach the still suffering alcoholic.

This article will come out in November which includes Gratitude Week. The first official recognition of Gratitude Week was specifically designed to coincide with Thanksgiving week in the U.S. (Canada celebrates in October), occurred in 1956. Three years later Bill W. urged in a letter, “Gratitude should go forward, rather than backward... if you carry the message to still others, you will be making the best possible repayment for the help given to you.”

ALTERNATE DELEGATE / alt_delegate@aageorgia.org

SE Regional Forum

By Ernie M.
Area 16 Alternate Delegate

First, I want to congratulate Debbie and Diane on their election as new Area Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Gene and Shari have represented Area 16 well beyond what could have been expected of them. By the time this message reaches the Area, our State Convention will have been held and I know it will have been a great time for those who attended. Thank you Jekyll Island Committee. November 8th will find us all at the Metro Atlanta Cluster Forum in Marietta (see flyer on Area website). The DCM Planning Meeting will be held on November 15th at the State Office in Ma-

con. Be sure to have reviewed the Budget for 2015 with your groups and bring any recommended changes with you. The Delegate and I are looking forward to meeting the newly elected District DCMs and Alternates. Next year’s Cluster Forums have been reduced to four to save expenses and the first one in March will be in the Southeast, District 4.

This past week I had the privilege to represent Area 16 at the Southeast Regional Forum in Puerto Rico. Total attendees were 372 with 172 first timers. So many staff members from GSO were there and their presentations were awesome. “Communication: Key to A.A. Growth and Participation”, “Singleness of Purpose”, “Passing It on

Through Sponsorship”, “Corrections Correspondence Service (CCS)” were Saturday morning presentations. Saturday afternoon brought remarks from Phyllis H. (General Manager, General Service Office), J. Gary L. (AAWS, Inc., Director) and David M., CPA, (General Service Board Treasurer). Saturday evening had its fill of Spanish and English workshops. I thoroughly enjoyed the ones on “Young People in AA” and “Safety in the Rooms”. There was plenty of time for “Questions for the Presenters” and no questions went unanswered. Thank you Area 16 for allowing me to attend. If there is anything the Delegate or I can do for you, feel free to contact us.

TREASURER / treasurer@aageorgia.org

Grateful Support

By Gene T.
Area 16 Treasurer

I would like to congratulate those people who stood for Area 16 Secretary/Treasurer and also Deborah and Diane for being elected. I know the people who stood were very much qualified to do the jobs and I encourage you to continue to stand in service. It is the best way to stay grounded and strengthen your sobriety.

I want to congratulate all the groups that sent in additional monies for an increase of 10% for this year versus last year. If we continue the contributions, we will possibly reach our goal of a balanced budget by December 31, 2014. I am really very pleased with your support of Area 16 and pray you continue this kind of support the rest of

this year.

This is my last message to say thank you for all your contributions and allowing me to serve Area 16. It has been a very short two years and yet sometimes felt like a lifetime when things weren't going my way. Thank God for having a program I can count on to help me through these hard times and not get too happy when things are going so well. I challenge each group in Area 16 to keep the contributions coming and to give your support to the new Treasurer, Diane, as you gave me during my tenure. I love each of you and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very prosperous New Year. May your life be filled with happiness and you have the courage to stop and

smell the flowers along this road of happy destiny we trudge. May God Bless you and keep you well.

What is a Cluster Forum?

"A unique opportunity to share valuable experience, ask questions and spark new ideas."

For more information visit
aageorgia.org/area-16-cluster-forums

HOW TO CONTACT TRUSTED SERVANTS

SECRETARY / secretary@aageorgia.org

Service Commitments in a time of need

By Shari M.
Area 16 Secretary

Two years ago in September, I was at the Assembly, anxious because I was standing for Area Secretary. On Saturday afternoon I got a phone call that my husband was critically ill. I had to rush back to Savannah. That Sunday morning, while elections were being held, the Assembly was the furthest thing from my mind as I sat in the hospital while Scott lay in a coma. I received a text that I had been elected in absentia. I told him about it even though he couldn't hear me. I know he would have been proud, he loved AA. Less than 5 days later he died. I cannot say enough how grateful I am that the Area trusted me and elected me. These two years of service have really been all about me in that I have desperately needed the structure and accountability that serving as Secretary has provided. I always had an email to respond too, a Cluster Forum or other Area event to attend, invitations to speak, articles

and reports to write. *Doing service kept me connected to AA.* During a really difficult time, there was no room for me to drift away or isolate, it simply was not possible. I truly thank you for my sobriety. I had no idea how much I would need you all and you gave me the gift of service. I want to strongly encourage everyone to get involved in AA service! I didn't have to scramble to get involved when I suffered this tragedy, I was already in. There is way more to service than just serving, if that makes any sense. I have gotten much more out of it than I ever put in to it. So do not hesitate to start getting involved now. I would like to congratulate Debi T., our new Area Secretary and Diane M., our new Treasurer. I know they will serve you well these next two years. We have 3 more Area events this year, the Prepaid Convention Oct. 16-19, the Metro Cluster Forum on Nov. 8 and the DCM Planning meeting on Nov. 15. I look forward to seeing you all there and I thank you for my sobriety.

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. 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.
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 or other trusted servants. Please provide any feedback to: communications@aageorgia.org or editor@aageorgia.org.



GRAPEVINE / grapevine@aageorgia.org

Recording Your Story – The Grapevine Audio Project

By Janie C., Chair and Dorman P., Co-Chair
Area 16 Grapevine Committee

Beginning in mid-January 2013, Grapevine started collecting up to 7-minute stories from the Fellowship in the form of audio recordings.

The recorded stories will go through Grapevine's editorial process just like the stories published in the magazine and online. If your story is accepted, Grapevine will publish it online and/or transcribe it for the magazine or web-

site.

For those interested in participating, GV offers some information to help guide you in this process. Although you may still submit your story in written form (electronically or via snail mail) and recorded form (via an MP3 file recorded on a digital recorder or phone), many have enjoyed the convenience of “calling in” their story directly.

Here are the instructions from www.aagrapevine.org for recording your story:

Be sure to use a phone with a good speaker function. Here are the steps:

- As you begin, remember that you have up to 7 minutes to tell your story.
- Call the voicemail box at (559) 726-1216. (Long distance charges will apply.)
- When you access the system, there are three options:
 - ◊ Press 1 to record your story.
 - ◊ Press 2 to listen to some

helpful hints.

- ◊ Press 3 to give Grapevine permission to use your story.
- In order to begin telling your story, press 1.
- Tell your name and geographical location.
- After you give GV that information, begin your story as you would in a meeting: i.e., My name is Jane and I'm an alcoholic.
- After you record your story, make sure to press the # button.
- Before hanging up, you must press #3 and follow the instructions in order to give Grapevine permission to use your story. Remember to give your phone number.
- After giving GV permission to use your story, you must press the # button again.

Note: Grapevine will not be collecting recordings from speakers at AA meetings.

PI/CPC / pi/cpc@aageorgia.org

Update Meeting Info

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

One of Area 16's Public Information tools is our website www.aageorgia.org. I use this site often. There is a lot of behind the scenes work that goes into this site to keep it current. I believe one of the most important jobs resting at the district level is keeping the meeting schedules current. If you have been around awhile, I am sure you have had the experience of looking for a meeting, maybe in your district or another, then finding that the meeting had moved to a different time, place or night. How disap-

pointing is that? For someone on the “AA Beam” it is a minor inconvenience. What about the Alcoholic that is on the verge of drinking or maybe a person new to AA where this could be a matter of life or death? The web committee suggests that each District elect a web representative. This representative would be responsible for keeping the website committee aware of any new groups or schedule changes within the district. The most likely candidate for this position is the District's PI person, but anyone who is familiar with the internet and has a computer at home may do the job. To submit group/meeting chang-

es go to <http://www.aageorgia.org/group-meeting-change-form.html> or simply navigate to the “Find a Meeting” tab at the top of <http://www.aageorgia.org> then to the “Group Meeting Change Form” link. This will get the needed information to the Area 16 Webmaster so they can update the page.

As Bill W. stated “Public Information takes many forms...” and this is just one of those forms. As always Chase and I are always available if you have any questions or need assistance, we both are very grateful to be able to be of service.

ARCHIVES / archives@aageorgia.org

Do You Think You Are One of Us?

By John B., Chair and Gary N., Co-Chair
Area 16 Archives Committee

First thanks and gratitude are in order to Dennis A. and our Co-Chair, Gary N. for their outstanding presentations at our September Georgia State Service Assembly.

Felicia's story appears in the second and third edition of Alcoholics Anonymous. The title of her story is "Stars Don't Fall". What got AA's attention is Felicia's account of the day she meet Bill W. As follows:

*He was well dressed; he was easy going. I could see he wasn't a quack or a fanatic. He did **not** take out a folder or a questionnaire and say, "What is the nature of your problem?" he said to me, gently and simply, "**Do you think that you are one of us?**" Never in my entire life had anyone asked me "are*

*you one of us?" **Never had I felt a sense of belonging.** I found myself nodding my head. He now said that we had a physical allergy combined with a mental obsession, and he explained this so that I saw for the first time how this could be. He asked me if I had any spiritual belief, and when I said No, he suggested that I keep an open mind.*
Page 413, 3rd Edition.

Wow! "Do you think that you are one of us"? What a greeting for the newcomer. Something to think about when the newcomer walks through our door.

Don't forget our Online Exhibit which is updated monthly. Please help spread the word.

Thank you all for your help and support for your Archives this past year. We are very grateful. Have a great Holiday Season. See you in January.



COMMUNICATIONS / communications@aageorgia.org

Updated Service Manual / New Editor

By Chuck L., Chair and Ron G., Co-Chair
Area 16 Communications Committee

It was great to see so many familiar and new faces at the Georgia State Service Assembly. I am always rejuvenated by the dedication to service and enthusiasm of those attending whether it is their first or 100th time attending. Many exciting things were discussed and acted upon that affect the Communications Committee by you, the members of Area 16 of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Sunday your voice was heard through the votes of your GSRs when the Assembly decided to adopt the Third Legacy voting procedures. The Service manual change, that this vote necessitates, will be carried out by your Area 16 Communications Committee and will be available to all members of Area 16 soon.

In the last issue of "The Georgia Message of AA" a call to service had been made seeking a new editor. At assembly this call was answered. The result was not only someone stepping up to serve as editor but several people stepping up to serve as contributing editors as well. We are blessed to be part of an organization where people are so willing to serve and where service can be so rewarding. This issue of the message will introduce Area 16 to Jenine M. who so graciously stepped up to serve as editor.

While not all recommendations provided by the Prepaid Ad Hoc Committee were addressed, I look forward to what your voice has to say at the January Georgia State Service Assembly and to the opportunity to

FROM YOUR EDITOR

Thank you all for welcoming me to General Service in Area 16. I moved back to Atlanta after having lived in Charlotte, NC during the entirety of my sobriety. I was involved in Service for Area 51. As much as I was saddened to leave my service commitments and dear friends, I was hopeful I would find a place for my energies in Georgia. It wasn't luck which provided opportunities in my district and while attending the Atlanta Metro Breakfast where Ron G. announced the need for an Editor. I am delighted to be applying my skills to carry on the tradition of The Georgia Message of AA.

— Jenine M., Area 16 Editor

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The Georgia Message of AA is published by Area 16.  
**CONTACT:** P.O. Box 7325, Macon, GA 31209 or [gssa@aageorgia.org](mailto:gssa@aageorgia.org).  
**CONTRIBUTING EDITORS:** Communications Chair Chuck L. and Co-Chair Ron G.  
**DESIGNER:** Jenine M.  
**PRINT AND DELIVERY:** Tamera P.  
**CONTACT:** [editor@aageorgia.org](mailto:editor@aageorgia.org)

Register for the AA  
International Convention at AA.org

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

**From Conversations  
Come Ideas**

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

Many ideas that become actions start with a simple conversation. It is just that scenario, a conversation after a group business meeting, which led to a topic of discussion at our last Assembly workshop. The idea is that we could look to add another meeting code to the meeting schedule that would differentiate between a fully handicap-accessible meeting place (all doors, bathrooms, etc. meet the criteria) and a meeting place that may allow our members in wheelchairs or who use walkers

to enter the meeting, but may not be able to fully access the entire building. One suggestion is that we use codes such as HA for fully accessible meetings and a code such as LA to note limited access, meaning a member may access the meeting, but areas such as the bathrooms may not be accessible. We would like your feedback as we look to go forward with this suggestion. We had some excellent feedback at the Assembly workshop, but if you would like to add your ideas, please e-mail us at [treatment@aageorgia.org](mailto:treatment@aageorgia.org).

We are soon going to add a section to our web page to be used by groups to see if their

meeting place meets the standard for handicap accessibility. We hope this will aid groups in coding their meetings properly. As always, we ask that groups that are accessible to please make sure your meeting is coded as such on the Area 16 website so members who need to access a meeting may find the AA message as easily as possible.

I would like to thank Willie for his service for the last four years as Co-Chair and Chair of the Area Treatment Committee. He has led by example. I hope to continue to see him around the Area 16 Georgia Service Assemblies and workshops! Thank you, Willie!

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

**A Year In Review**

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

As 2014 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:

- 484 copies of AA conference approved books have been supplied to our state's inmates in correctional facilities by the Area 16 Pink Cans Program in 2014. This includes 172 copies of the Big Book. In addition, 400 pamphlets were supplied.
- 103 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.

- 66 AA volunteers received training for certification at our first two 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 Lisa Haughey will be taking over Training for the late Warden Sanders in 2015.

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 Pink Cans 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!

As I rotate out of the Chair position at the end of December, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to serve the Area 16 Corrections Committee for the past four years. It has been a wonderful experience and I would not trade it for anything. I am certain that the Area 16 Corrections Committee will continue to grow in the future under Tim's guidance and leadership. Thanks to everyone for their kindness and support!

## THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA / PAGE 6

### **Birthday Contributions**

#### **District 3, Zone A**

Third Step Group  
John F. – May 23, 2003

#### **District 3, Zone D**

12 & 12 Group  
Dorethy L. – August 13, 1984

#### **District 6**

College Step Study Group  
David W. – July 4, 1998  
Bill B. – October 15, 2002

#### **District 7, Zone A**

Happy Hour Group  
Carmen G. – November 8, 2012

#### **District 8**

Wrightsville Serenity Group  
Chris M. – August 17, 2009

#### **District 10, Zone B**

Douglas County Group  
Anita T. – August 13, 2002  
Douglasville Group  
Katherine W. – July 28, 2006

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

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

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

Striving for Serenity Group  
Becky L. – August 8, 1991

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

AA Solutions Group  
Mario L. – June 11, 1986  
Debra L. – August 4, 1991

#### **District 11, Zone C**

Y.A.N.A. (You Are Not Alone) Group  
Rea F. – January 1, 1988

#### **District 12, Zone A**

Ben D. – August 22, 1981

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

Rome Group  
Tina M. – June 10, 2013

#### **District 15, Zone A**

Lafayette Fellowship Group  
Jan T. – March 1, 1990

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

Clarkesville 12 Steps Group  
David B. – 23 Years  
Nacoochee Women's Meeting  
Lynn L. – August 23, 2001

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

Alumni Group  
Randy P. – August 17, 1991  
Cobb Group  
Richard S. – August 21, 1978  
Third Tradition Group  
George M. – August 8, 1988

#### **District 17**

Latinos 2000 Group  
Carlos – August 27, 2004

### **New Groups**

#### **District 5 Zone C**

Hope On The Island Group  
22 Rose Ave.  
Savannah, GA 31406  
Meets Tuesday and Saturday at  
8:00 p.m.

#### **District 7 Zone A**

How It Works Group  
Christ United Methodist Church  
417 North Frontage Rd.  
Forsyth, GA 31029  
Meets Sunday, Tuesday and  
Thursday 8:00 p.m.

#### **Ingleside Group**

Ingleside Methodist Church  
3157 Ridge Ave.  
Macon, GA 31204  
Meets Monday thru Friday at noon  
closed

#### **District 11 Zone A**

There Is A Solution Group  
Holy Cross Anglican Church  
3836 Oak Grove Rd.

Loganville, GA 30052

Meets Sunday, Monday,  
Wednesday and Friday at 7:00  
p.m.

#### **District 12 Zone B**

Morning After Group  
New Holt Baptist Church  
210 Verdy St.  
Harlem, GA  
Meets Saturday at 9:00 a.m.

#### **District 14 Zone C**

The Hickory Flat Group  
Hickory Flat United Methodist  
Church  
4056 East Cherokee Dr.  
Canton, GA 30115  
Meets Friday at 8:00 p.m.

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

Welcome Home Group  
St. Luke Church  
113 ½ Washington St.  
Gainesville, GA 30501  
Meets Saturday thru Thursday  
8:00 p.m.

### **Things We Cannot Change**

#### **Retha Price**

Home Group – Pembroke Group  
Pembroke, GA  
Sobriety Date – March 7, 1997  
Passed – September 6, 2014

### **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.

PLEASE REMEMBER THE  
CUT OFF DATE IS December  
17, 2014.

## THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA / PAGE 7

### Area 16 Assembly

Marriott Macon City Center, Macon,

May 21, 2014

9:00 a.m.

### Business Meeting Opened

Delegate Report – Rebecca T., Panel 64 Delegate

It is my privilege to serve as your panel 64 Area 16 Delegate. How many people are here for their first Assembly? Welcome we are grateful you are all here. I want to thank our Southeast Region Trustee – Chet Parker for stepping in at the last minute to be our guest this weekend.

I wanted to start off by correcting a statement which I made in my May Conference report. I stated "Grapevine subscriptions had dropped from 125K to 75K last year" which is incorrect. The correct statement is "Grapevine subscriptions had dropped from around 80K to 75K last year".

Friday I received a letter from AA World Services requesting stories which will better convey where and how the "dollar in the basket" is being used. The letter talks about Concept 9 "vision"- AAWS board continues to focus on the future of GSO and how best to serve the Fellowship. The letter goes on to say (I quote) "Looking at the future, the AAWS board realizes that depending on literature profits to make up the shortfall of contributions is not a sustainable model to remain self-supporting. We are also aware that while we may communicate numbers and dollars well, we could do a better job of informing the Fellowship of how member contributions are used to carry our life-saving message to the still sick and suffering alcoholic" (end quote).

The letter included an example story where a member was in a meeting overseas and the Big Book had recently arrived in the native language of country they were in and how grateful they were to be able to pass along the message of hope. The stories can be sent to AAWS – Sandra Wilson, 475 Riverside Dr, Ste 110, NY, NY 10115 or email-wilsons@aa.org.vvl will ask the Shari to e-mail the letter out to the DCM's and I will also ask the Webmaster to put the letter and the example on the Website under Delegate report.

Next weekend we will travel to Puerto Rico for the Southeast Region Forum. This will be the first time we have had the Forum in Puerto Rico. The Forum is put on by GSO with the intent to bring GSO to you, which they serve. I can remember for first Forum I attended and I was amazed the have GSO in Atlanta. The Forum is about ½ presentations and ½ Q&A. I was amazing to see how they took time for each question and answered with enthusiasm. GSO really does want to hear from the Fellowship which they serve.

Next year with our Cluster forums we had scaled back, however we plan on getting back to a model of the Regional Forum to bring the Area Officers & the Committee chairs or co-chairs to different parts of the state to share with you about what is going on throughout Area 16 and AA as a whole. We will also, include a session for Q&A. I am grateful to be part of a fellowship which encourages the members to ask questions.

Over the summer we had several groups participate in the membership survey. The survey is conducted by GSO and they random selected the groups. I was blessed to have several groups which were close enough for me to take the surveys to them. I was great to get out to different meetings in the Area. One group I was having trouble getting a hold of so I asked the DCM to visit to get me a contact. She did and provided the information and let me know when they met. I was unable to get in touch with the contact, but I did go visit. They were visiting when I arrived. They invited me in and I explained why I was there. They explained they were going to a birthday celebration across town for a couple of guys who normally attend the meeting during the week, but they were there to open up the meeting in the event someone came since they are listed in the directory and on the web. This is how AA works, ready for a meeting for the person who walks in the door and supports the members who are here today. The group had not been to district in a while and several members went to the next district meeting.

Also, the updates to the pamphlet "Circles of Love and Service" and a new pamphlet "Many Paths to Spirituality," were made available this summer to the Fellowship. It was impressive to see the pamphlets completed which I had been a small part of the process. This always reminds me of essay written in the Twelve & Twelve on Tradition Two – "Sometimes the good is the enemy of the best". I am grateful to be part of a Fellowship which takes the business of A.A. serious and will work through a process, sometimes lengthy, to support the groups which they serve.

Today you will have a chance to do the same thing with the motions which are on the floor regarding Third Legacy voting procedures, our Pre-Paid Inventory recommendations and Secretary/Treasurer.

This weekend is the last Assembly for Jim T. – Corrections Chair; Willie S – Treatment-Special Needs Accessibility Chair. I want to thank Jim and Willie for their service to Area 16 over the past 4 years.

Are there any questions?

Thank you for letting me serve and I look forward to seeing you throughout the Area.

## THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA / PAGE 8

### **Business Meeting**

**Recognize past Area officers:** Bill M. past Treasurer, Glenda past Secretary and Office Manager, David M. past Treasurer past Delegate, Harold I. past Treasurer, Judy S. past Secretary, Clint Y. past Treasurer

### **Approval of minutes from May 2014 Assembly by show of hands**

### **Report of the 61<sup>th</sup> Prepaid Convention – Jekyll Island – Oct. 16-19 2014 – Deborah C. (Chair):**

Will have meetings on beach, currently have 1300 registered with more expected to register at door. Speaker lineup: Tom H., Dick A., also will do relationship workshop, Adrienne B., Georgia B., Cori L. Al-Anon, Bob D., Joy H. Host hotel is Hampton Inn will also host Hospitality Room. Will not be free coffee at Convention Center, but will have concessions for sale before each meeting. Hampton Inn and Days Inn are full, Quality Inn has 5 suites left \$99, 7 2 bedroom suites \$119 per night. 912-635-2202. Villas by the Sea and Historic Jekyll Island still has some rooms available and there is a campground on Jekyll, requires reservation. Parking fee on island is \$6. Will have band Saturday night. Motorcycle Poker Run 75 mile trek, Bicycle AA Trivia run Friday, 5K run Saturday. Free yoga in mornings by convention center. Golf tournament 4 man scramble. Low country Boil Saturday afternoon, both are prepaid events must pay by Oct. 1.

### **Report from Patty L., 2015 International Convention Volunteer Host Committee Chair:**

Dates are July 2-5 2015. Registration opened September 3, go to [aageorgia.org](http://aageorgia.org) to register. Registration is \$100, realize that we are paying to rent facilities NOT to attend AA meetings. You must be registered to volunteer. Expecting 50,000 people. Held in GWCC and Ga. Dome. Our job is only to greet people who come to convention, that is all. There is nothing for volunteers to do yet. Volunteer kickoff will be week of Jan 10, now have link on [aageorgia.org](http://aageorgia.org) for volunteer updates. Will be a training session for volunteers May 17 at 2pm at GWCC. We will need 4,000 volunteers.

### **Report from We Share Our Georgia Experience, Shari M. gave report for Claudia S.:**

We Share Update – A History of AA groups in GA, state delegates, and stories from Old-timers.

All stories have been edited and turned in, as of this weekend. The first 6 districts, have been further edited, and added to We Share II. Many groups turned in complete new histories, when the histories through 1993, were already in the original book. These entries had to be edited to include only the last 20 years. It a very time consuming project, but it is coming together. The first 100 pages will be sent for a final edit, by months end. We will continue to send off 100 pages at a time, until the book is

completed edited. We are on target to have the book completed by the end of year, to the Publisher by January, and printed by May of 2015.

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

**Ernie M., Alternate Delegate:** Upcoming events: Prepaid Oct. 16-19, Corrections Training Oct. 4, Metro Cluster Nov. 8, DCM Planning Meeting GSSA Office Nov. 15 from 1 to 3. To save costs we will only be doing 4 Cluster Forums next year. Next year: SE Cluster March, E Central in June, Aug. NW Cluster, Nov. Dist. 17 Cluster. Then other 4 Cluster Forums will occur in following year. List will be available at DCM Planning Meeting.

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

Attendance Report for the September Assembly:

|                                 |     |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----|
| DCMs                            | 42  |     |
| Alternate DCMs                  | 29  |     |
| District Secretaries/Treasurers | 12  |     |
| GSRs                            | 241 |     |
| Alternate GSRs                  | 68  |     |
| Group Secretaries/Treasurers    | 22  |     |
| Grapevine Reps                  |     | 11  |
| Treatment Facilities Reps       |     | 7   |
| Correctional Facilities Reps    | 13  |     |
| Communications                  |     | 1   |
| PI/CPC Reps                     | 13  |     |
| Archives Reps                   | 4   |     |
| Members                         | 45  |     |
| Total Attendance                |     | 427 |

Please keep group information updated on [aageorgia.org](http://aageorgia.org) and fill out group information forms in folders distributed to DCMs yesterday, please return completed forms to DCM Planning Meeting in November. Please email district minutes to [districtminutes@aageorgia.org](mailto:districtminutes@aageorgia.org). Did roll call for voting.

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

DCMs were given revised budget for 2014 yesterday. Thanked groups for contributions. As of Aug. 31 we are up \$15,000 in contributions. We have cut expenses right now we are saving \$8,000 in expenses. Down \$6,000 in office expense. Hopefully we will have a balanced budget by year end. Thanked Area for allowing him to serve as Treasurer. Thanked and recognized Budget and Finance Committee. You will soon be able to contribute online at [aageorgia.org](http://aageorgia.org).

Tom recognized Shari and Gene for their service to Area. Baskets were passed. Tom explained gift boxes on dais. GSSA box \$9.33 per member to provide services to Area. GSO box \$10.33 to provide GSO services. It costs \$22 per person to put on Assembly.

### **Chet P., SE Regional Trustee:**

Talked about AAWS Interim Board Meeting. 2 operating corporations that provide services AAWS and AA Grapevine. All regional trustees in second or third years serve



## THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA / PAGE 9

on one of these boards. AAWS divided into nominating, finance, publishing, services (inc. communication and technology). Handled guidelines for hiring General Manager for GSO. Removed "suggested" from guidelines. There are 2 non-Trustee directors, they are selected for expertise. Often it is a past Delegate but clarified that this is NOT a requirement. Finance: AAWS \$627K net profit GV \$155K. Contributions \$3M+reserve is \$14M or about 4 months of operating expenses. Numbers reflect sales of 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Big Book so are higher. Publishing: Looking forward to increase in sales as result of announced literature price increase coming in Oct. But this also may be a one-time increase. Looking at what effect e-book sales will have on print literature. Anniv. Big Book sold 168+ units. EBook sales 798K+ units. BB sales was roughly 12K units or 35%, 12 and 12 sold 14K units or 42% of sales. Services: ongoing look at alternatives to print directories, give Rebecca your input on this. Discussed universal jump page from AAWS website. Should there be a special relationship between AAWS and AAGV page – security questions. New Business: bylaw change to GSB due to change in NY corporation law – that a chairman may not be a salaried employee. 3 person sub-committee to get feedback on translation of Agenda background material into Spanish and French. GSO moving to 11<sup>th</sup> floor to consolidate, moving GV from 12<sup>th</sup> floor.

Tom recognized Billy N General Service Trustee and chair of AAWS.

Tom thanked Britt the taper. Britt thanked Area. Tom thanked Tamera and her volunteers.

### **Old Business:**

Tom reviewed Assembly procedures and voting. Explained that he made procedural mistake at last Assembly regarding following motion. In May motion passed by 2/3 majority, Tom gave minority opportunity to voice opinion, Tom should have paused, not offered re-vote. So we started at passing 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.**

Minority opinions voiced – violation of Traditions, only about convenience.

Chris M. GSR Wrightsville Serenity made Motion to Reconsider, Randy P. GSR Alumni Group seconded. Motion to Reconsider passed by show of hands.

Floor opened for debate pro and con.

Peg GSR Cobb Fellowship called question, seconded by Tom GSR Lilburn Third. Calling the question passed by show of hands.

**Voted on motion on floor, 163 out of 250 in favor, motion DID NOT CARRY.**

Point of order brought up, re-counted votes, did not change motion.

**Motion on Floor: The Election Procedure and Voting as outlined on pages 27, 28 and 29 in the Georgia Service Manual be changed to reflect the Third Legacy Procedure in the AA Service Manual on pages S21 and S22.**

226 in favor, 7 opposed. Motion passed.

**Motion on Floor: To adopt the report of Pre-paid Inventory Committee.**

**Tom clarified this is the FIRST report, not the Ad Hoc Committee Report.**

**Item 1:** The Prepaid budget should include hotel rooms for the Area Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs and the GSSA budget should include reimbursement for meals and mileage (per the Area guidelines) for attendance at the Prepaid Convention.

Motion passed: 212 in favor, 20 opposed

Minority opinions voiced and people asked for clarity on which report we were voting on.

Jessica GSR Northside Young People's motion to reconsider, Amy O' GSR A Vision for you 16E seconded, simple majority approved motion to reconsider.

Floor opened for debate pro and con. Discussion on floor. Amy O GSR 16 E: Amendment to Motion : The Prepaid budget should include hotel rooms for the Area Committee Chair OR Co-Chairs and should include reimbursement for mileage for attendance at the Prepaid Convention if invited. Jean GSR Cobb Fellowship seconded.

Amended motion did not carry by vote of 136 to 86. Pro and con debate continued.

**Chuck F. GSR Alpharetta Group made amended motion: To accept the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendation in that it requires reimbursement if those Committee Chairs have a function to perform at that convention. \*Ad Hoc Committee motion was displayed on PowerPoint screen and is as follows: The Prepaid budget should include hotel rooms for the Area Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs and the GSSA budget should include reimbursement for meals and mileage (per the Area guidelines) for attendance at the Prepaid Convention.**

Ken B. GSR Northwest Group seconded, motion carried 228 to 9.

## THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA / PAGE 10

Tom asked body to set aside rules and table motion to adopt the report of the Prepaid Inventory Committee to proceed with election of Area Officers.

Discussion on floor.

Ralph GSR Douglasville: motion to call the question, Lisa GSR Cornelia GA seconded. Tom asked all in favor of motion on floor to raise their hands. 200 in favor, 23 opposed, motion carried.

Tom asked body once again to table this item and move forward with voting on Secretary and Treasurer.

Tabled request for Area approval: That Area 16 endorse an agenda item to move pagination of The Doctor's Opinion to page one thus removing Roman numerals from this section. The person who made the motion had taken it off the table but Tom shared background information regarding this item from the GSO Archivist: page change reflected sensible editorial practice in second edition, and Doctor's Opinion is not one of the recovery stories.

### **New Business:**

Elections for Area Secretary and Treasurer. Secretary nominees: Robert M., Tom P., Debi K. Treasurer nominees: Cathy B., Diane M.

Secretary Round 1:

Debi: 130  
Robert: 94  
Tom: 29

Secretary Round 2:

Debi: 179  
Robert: 74  
Tom: 3

Debi K. elected Area Secretary.

Treasurer Round 1:

Cathy: 118  
Diane: 131

Treasurer Round 2:

Cathy: 83  
Diane: 161

Treasurer Round 3:

Cathy: 47  
Diane: 188

Diane M. elected Area Treasurer

Tom asked for permission to cut May Assembly Business meeting short to accommodate Volunteer Information session for International. Meeting will end at 11 a.m.

Buddy GSR Friday Night Fellowship made motion to ad-

ourn. Tom did not allow due to pending motion on floor.

Amy O. GSR A Vision for You made motion: To allow a candidate to stand for Alternate Delegate without the requirement of standing for Delegate. Randall H. GSR 4<sup>th</sup> Dimension seconded.

Discussion on floor. Motion will automatically be tabled and Delegate will appoint an Ad Hoc Committee to research. Will have report in January.

### **General Sharing:**

Chris M. GSR Wrightsville Serenity Group: Would like to encourage voting members to vote group's conscience, not your rear end's or stomach's conscience.

Motion to close seconded by Chris M, GSR Wrightsville Serenity Group.

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

### **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.*

**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 16 - 19</b> | <b>61<sup>st</sup> Georgia Pre-Paid Convention</b><br>Jekyll Island             |
| <b>November 8</b>      | <b>Metro Cluster Forum</b><br>13A, 13B, 13D, 13E, 13F, 13G, 13H, 13I, 13J, 13K) |
| <b>November 13-16</b>  | <b>35<sup>th</sup> Chattahoochee Forest AA Conf.</b><br>Helen                   |
| <b>November 15</b>     | <b>DCM Planning Meeting</b><br>Macon / GSSA 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.               |
| <b>January 16-18</b>   | <b>Georgia AA Service Assembly</b><br>Macon                                     |

**The deadline for the articles for the message for Jan. and Feb. is December 1<sup>st</sup>. There is no subscription fee for this newsletter, however all contributions are appreciated. Please Mail to: G.S.S.A., P. O. Box 7325, Macon, Ga. 31209**

**METRO ATLANTA CLUSTER FORUM**

*Hosted by District 13 Zone I*

**Join us Saturday, November 8, 2014  
To Learn More about AA's 2014 Theme  
"Living in the Heart of AA"**

- a. Recovery, Unity and Service – our responsibility*
- b. Passing it on Through Sponsorship*
- c. Participating in our Common Welfare through Contributions*
- d. Inventory – A Guiding Tool to our Future*

***Coffee and breakfast snacks will be available.  
A light lunch will be available immediately after the program.***

**Saturday, November 8, 2014**, Registration begins at 8:30 AM  
Program 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM

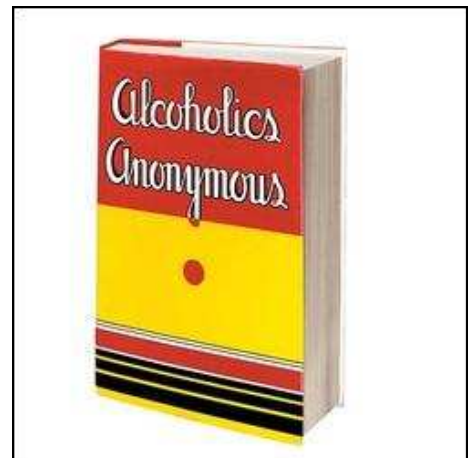
**St. Andrew United Methodist Church**  
Keheley Building  
3455 Canton Rd  
Marietta, Ga. 30066

**Book Orders**



The We Share 2nd Edition book costs \$10.00 for pre-order. Orders must be a minimum of 5 each and ordered in increments of 5. Each quantity unit on the pay-out page equals a set of five. All orders will be available for pick-up at the May 2015 Assembly.

**75th Anniversary Big Book**



To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the historic publication of Alcoholics Anonymous in April 1939, the 2013 General Service Conference approved the creation of this facsimile edition of the first printing of the first edition. Special edition with red hardcover binding, the famous "circus cover" dust jacket and bulky paper (which was why it was initially called the Big Book).

To order either book, go to [www.aageorgia.org](http://www.aageorgia.org) and click on "Buy Online."

*"Faith without works is dead." AA's services, all designed to make more and better Twelfth Step work possible, are the 'works' that insure our life and growth by preventing anarchy or stagnation.*

## **Assembly Actions Sept. 2012 to present**

**Sept. 2012 Assembly:** Motion: "We of Area 16, Georgia, recommend that the GSC form a committee in 2013 to begin planning for AA's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2035. We feel this event is significant in our history and requires an extended planning period to consider an appropriate celebration." Tom H. sent motion to GSO.

**January 2013:** "We have reviewed all available documentation including the Area 16 Service Manual, met with 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." Page 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."

**May 2013:** Vote to hold 2015 Prepaid Convention in Columbus.

**September 2013:** No actions  
**January 2014:** That the person who tapes the Assembly be given the Prepaid Convention that year.

**May 2014:** Vote to hold 2016 Prepaid Convention in Augusta.  
**September 2014:** The Election Procedure and Voting as outlined on pages 27, 28 and 29 in the Georgia Service Manual be changed to reflect the Third Legacy Procedure in the AA Service Manual on pages S21 and S22.

The Prepaid budget should include hotel rooms for the Area Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs and the GSSA budget should include reimbursement for meals and mileage (per the Area guidelines) for attendance at the Prepaid Convention.



**Area 16, Georgia, and our International Convention Host Committee look forward to welcoming AA members from around the world to Atlanta, Georgia, July 2-5, 2015.**

**We need your help!! Our Volunteer Kick-off Meeting will be held January 10, 2015 from 1:00pm – 4:00pm and volunteer training will occur on May 17, 2015, 2:00pm at the World Congress Center in Atlanta. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend these two events.**

Please watch for details at [www.aageorgia.org/international](http://www.aageorgia.org/international). You may also email [atlanta2015aa@gmail.com](mailto:atlanta2015aa@gmail.com).

Registration for the convention is available at [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org). Volunteers will sign up to volunteer in a separate database that will be available in January 2015. This will allow you to select a committee and day/time that you are available. We will ask you to provide a cell phone number and email address so that we can communicate with you.

# 62nd Georgia State Prepaid Convention

October 16th - 18th 2015

Columbus, Georgia Iron Works and Convention Center



**"Celebrating 80 Years of Recovery, Unity and Service—  
The Foundation of Our Future."**

#### Activities

Dance - Golf - Poker Run -  
White Water Rafting  
Bicycle Ride - Morning Walk-  
Saturday Night Speaker Dinner

#### AA Speakers

Lisa W.— Pensacola, FL  
Danny B.— Spring, TX  
Don L.— Bellingham, WA  
Tim T.— West Lake, OH  
Marilyn S.— Los Angeles, CA

#### Host Hotel Information

Columbus Marriott  
800 Front Avenue, Columbus, GA  
31901  
(706)-324-1800  
(Request the Georgia State Prepaid  
Convention room rate.)

#### Al-Anon Speaker

Bo T.— Birmingham, AL

## 62nd Georgia Prepaid Convention October 16—18, 2015

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

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

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

Please check affiliation: AA  Al-Anon  Alateen

Check if you are interested:  
Poker Run  Golf  White Water Rafting  Bicycle Ride  Morning Walk  Zip Lining

Saturday Night Speaker Dinner (\$25.00 due with registration form)

Any Special Needs? Wheelchair  Sight  Hearing  Other

Note: Out of state registration fee \$25.00(Due at Registration) Payable to: 62nd Prepaid Convention  
Mail all checks and registration forms to: P.O. Box 6221, Columbus, GA 31907

\*\*\*For more information and to register for activities go to [www.aageorgia.org](http://www.aageorgia.org) or email [62ndprepaid@aageorgia.org](mailto:62ndprepaid@aageorgia.org)\*\*\*