

DELEGATE / delegate@aageorgia.org

Confidential for members
Nov./Dec. 2018
Volume 54, Numbers 11-12

A Message of Gratitude

By Rick M.
Area 16 Delegate

I recently read a Box 459 article on gratitude and in it was stated: "There is no timeframe on an A.A. member's gratitude, no expiration date, and AAs have long been focusing on Thanksgiving week (November in the U.S. and October in Canada) as a tangible time to highlight their gratitude for AA and recovery and to turn that gratitude into action."

My first experience with gratitude in AA came when I was less than 30 days sober. I was invited to a Gratitude Dinner by Billy, an AA member of a group in my town. It happened to be my "custody" weekend with my two young children and I didn't know what to do. I thought that I could not bring them and I had no money for someone to watch them. So, I told Billy, "I've got my children this weekend and I won't be able to attend."

He just looked at me and said "Bring 'em". I said, "What? You mean I can bring my children to this AA event?" He said, "this is a gratitude dinner and is open to all and our group encourages families to attend. He went on to say that alcoholism is a disease that affects families, not just individuals. Why would we exclude them while celebrating our **gratitude**? Bring em'."

Well, I brought them. I was a newcomer and nervous about bringing my family to an AA event, but they had a great time. As I sat and watched, member after member approached me, stuck their hand out and engaged my children in conversation, laughter, and a great time. As a newcomer, this gave my children and me a very positive impression of AA; to be so welcomed and made to feel so com-

fortable. I will never forget that Gratitude Dinner and its meaning to this alcoholic and my children. I am forever grateful to AA.

Congratulations to Tracy M. and Christy G., our newly elected Secretary and Treasurer! I look forward to serving with you both. I would also like to thank Joan and Rusty for their service to Area 16 these last two years.

In January we will hear an Ad Hoc report on the motion "that Area 16

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ALTERNATE DELEGATE / alt_delegate@aageorgia.org

**Group Conscience—
The Guiding Force**

By Debi K.
Area 16 Alternate Delegate

"Alcoholics Anonymous has been called an upside-down organization because "the ultimate responsibility and final authority for world services resides with the groups — rather than with the trustees, the General Service Board or the General Service Office in New York." ("Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated")

The entire structure of AA depends upon the participation of its members at the group level and an informed group conscience has a positive effect on AA as a whole. So, what is an informed group conscience? According to the guidelines outlined in the AA pamphlet "The AA Group...where it all begins" (AAWS Inc., 2017): "The group

conscience is the collective conscience of the group membership and thus represents substantial unanimity on an issue before definitive action is taken. This is achieved by the group members through the sharing of full information, individual points of view, and the practice of A.A. principles. To be fully informed requires a **will- ingness** to listen to minority opinions with an open mind."

Sometimes our group conscience meetings can become heated as we tend to have strong beliefs and passions about our recovery. However, we can reach substantial unanimity by considering what is best for AA as a whole, rather than what is best for the individual. We can always remember to place principles before personalities. It is a spiritual process that allows us to study the issues at hand, listen to

each other, and come to a consensus. I love the fact that in Alcoholics Anonymous everyone has a voice.

How can a group ensure it is informed on the current topics and issues in AA? Provide funds for your GSR to attend the Georgia Service Assembly three times a year. Members are welcome to attend as well! Read your Georgia Message and Box 459, check out the Area 16 website at aageorgia.org, and talk to your trusted servants.

Your group conscience can conduct a group inventory to evaluate how well your group is meeting our primary purpose of carrying our message to those individuals still suffering from the disease of alcoholism.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at alt_delegate@aageorgia.org with any questions. Thank you for the privilege of serving Area 16.

TREASURER / treasurer@aageorgia.org

GSSA: Financially Sound

By Rusty L.
Area 16 Treasurer

As my term as Area 16 Treasurer comes to a close, I want to thank you for all you do for GSSA. I have obviously focused on our financial condition during my time as Treasurer, but I want you to know that AA in Area 16 is alive and well in all aspects. And we have you to thank for that.

Based on my financial report at the September Assembly, GSSA is financially sound. Through August 31, our total income is almost \$19,000 over budget and our total expenses are more than \$5,600 under budget. In total, Area 16 is \$24,631.05 to the good compared to budget. That's all because of you!

As your Treasurer, I have routinely asked you to consider GSSA as your groups decide on how to distribute your money. And I, for one, **appreciate** the fact that you have given so generously to GSSA.

As you know, we have had unexpected expenses this year, including needing a new computer system, an increase in rent, and construction work in the office, which your contributions have fully covered. At the same time, we have increased our prudent reserve to the point that we now have 11.6 months in savings should finances get tough in the near future.

Thanks again for all you do to financially support your Area. You are the financial lifeblood of AA in Georgia.

SECRETARY / secretary@aageorgia.org

Updating your Group's Information

By Joan M.
Area 16 Secretary

Thanks to all the well-qualified candidates who stood for Area 16 Secretary; your willingness to stand was appreciated. Congratulations to Tracy M., elected as our new Area 16 Secretary!

Over the past two years I've covered such topics as: group conscience, disposing of confidential material, duties of a secretary, protecting anonymity when using email, *always* encouraging you to keep group, district and zone information updated.

I can't stress enough how important it is to have your group and trusted servants' information current. Meetings get cancelled, **hurricanes** approach us, newcomers and out of towners are looking for us. There are many reasons someone is trying to contact or find you or your group.

You have a chance to review the information currently on file for you or your group just by going to your next

district or zone meeting. Your DCM received a folder at Assembly that has information for district/zone trusted servants. It also has information on each group in the district.

Please take the time to review the information and make the necessary corrections. Do you have a new DCM, GSR or new alternates? Has your meeting time changed? Have you changed from a discussion to a literature meeting? These are changes taken for granted that we know, but we also need to let everyone else know. Here's your opportunity. DCM's will be returning their folders to Tamera at the DCM meeting in early November.

The information you provide us will then be changed in the GSO database and with GSSA. You will be able to pick up the 2019 Directory for Area 16 with your updated information at the January Assembly.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Area 16 Secretary these past two years. It has truly been an honor and a privilege.

SELF-SUPPORT

GROUP CONTRIBUTION PLANS TO AA SERVICE ENTITIES

"To help support AA's essential services, the General Service Conference suggests that individual groups, *through an informed group conscience*, adopt a specific contribution plan tailored to meet the group's financial situation."- *Self-Support: Where Money & Spirituality Mix*

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

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

Group Conscience Decision

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

Sample Distribution **A** **B**

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

Mailing Addresses:

GSSA (State Office) & Prepaid Convention

P.O. Box 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

GRAPEVINE / grapevine@aageorgia.org

Subscription Challenge Update

By Robert M., Chair
Susan D., Co-Chair
Area 16 Grapevine Committee

Susan and I would like to thank you all for the tremendous support we have received this year.

The Grape-A-Thon's have all been a huge success. The last Grape-A-Thon hosted by 11C in McDonough was fantastic. Great turnout and the build your own biscuit was so good! Susan had a great time. Thank you!

We are holding steady in the Grapevine subscriptions for the Grapevine Subscription Challenge. As of September, we are still at No. 9. LaVina is No. 2 in percentage growth. Great job. Let's finish strong! Get your one-year subscription for only \$28.97. Start a Grapevine meeting, read an article as discussion leader,

pass it on to a newcomer.

There is a new Grapevine book out called *One Big Tent*. This book is a collection of stories from atheists and agnostics sharing their experience, strength and hope.

Grapevine representatives are the link between AA Grapevine and the groups. It's a fun way to get involved! All you have to do is announce the latest issue at a meeting, let people know how they can **participate** by sending in stories, artwork, or jokes.

It's easy to get started. Simply let your home group know that you are interested, register online at www.aagrapevine.org and you will receive a complete information kit from the Grapevine Office. We look forward to more Grape-A-Thon's in 2019.

Thank you all for allowing us to serve

PI/CPC / picpc@aageorgia.org

"When Anyone, Anywhere Reaches Out for Help..."

By Max S., Chair
Micah G., Co-Chair

Area 16 Public Information/Cooperation With the Professional Community Committee

In thinking about our primary purpose to "carry the message," it seems that alcoholism rips through the lives of many and not just the alcoholic.

Our literature has expanded to talk about "Problems other than alcohol" and "Is There an Alcoholic in Your Life." When providing service at the PI and CPC levels, I believe that we should also keep this expansion in mind. Providing literature can cause us to consider if we are offering it in both English and Spanish.

Someone perhaps may find their way to AA by someone we first introduce to Al-Anon. To be a vessel and ensure that the message is carried in a way that can be heard by many is the practical application I am learning through this line of service. I am grateful to serve and learn.

We have a busy month representing at the Prepaid Convention in Athens, attending the Metro Atlanta Cluster Forum, presenting at the "Problems other than Alcohol" workshop in District 15B and also meeting with our DCM's at their annual meeting. **Connecting** and sharing about the efforts and struggles in your districts is how we address the immediate needs and share those solutions with others in the Area.

Please take action and attend these events as we invite your participation and input as it helps us to better serve as well as get a realistic scope of the Area needs for our service. We are responsible.

Treatment / Accessibilities treatment@aageorgia.org

Embarking on a New Project: A Bridge the Gap Roster

By Christy G., Chair
Richard R., Co-Chair

Area 16 Treatment / Accessibilities Committee

I want to say thank you to Richard R. and everyone from Area 16 for your support these last two years. It has been an honor and a privilege to be your Area 16 Treatment Accessibilities chair. Being in this position reminded me how valuable treatment work is across our state. It is what brought me into AA a little over eighteen years ago.

We are **embarking** on a new project for Bridge the Gap. We are making a Bridge the Gap roster for Area 16. We need people willing to help take some-

one right out of a treatment center to his or her first few meetings. We normally get about two to three days to find a contact. So, if you see us at events, please prayerfully consider helping. The only requirement is that you have an automobile that is registered and for which you have insurance.

Remember to make sure to double check that if your meeting is marked Handicap Accessible that it is indeed Handicap Accessible. You can use the "A.A. Guidelines on Accessibility for All Alcoholics" (MG-16) as a guide. If your meeting is Handicap Accessible, please mark it on your group forms so we can have it on the meeting list on the web site.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Area 16 Treatment Chair.

COMMUNICATIONS / communications@aageorgia.org

Giving Back What Has Been Freely Given!

By Diane M., Chair
Chuck H., Co-chair
Area 16 Communications Committee

AA's current tradition of November being gratitude month developed over time. Box 459 Volume 46, No. 5 presents the transformation of this tradition from its 1940's beginnings as a small Gratitude Dinner hosted each fall by the General Service Board for the professional community, followed by formal recognition of Thanksgiving week as gratitude week by the 6th General Service Conference in 1956, to the expansion of gratitude week to the month of November sometime after 1968.

In 1959 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." (As Bill Sees It, page 29)

The Communications Committee announced at the September Assembly the need for eCommerce web developers, website testers, and English to Spanish written translators. The response of Area 16's membership continues to demonstrate their gratitude for what has been freely given through their willingness to serve.

This November Chuck and I are grateful to be a part of this membership and to **witness** gratitude in action as we welcome new volunteers who have stepped up to fill these vital roles to help carry the message to others. Together, through service, we will all make the best possible repayment for the gift we have been so freely given!

CORRECTIONS / corrections@aageorgia.org

Certification Training

By Cathy B., Chair
Ken P., Co-Chair
Area 16 Corrections Committee

My deepest apology to those who went to the certification training, only to find that it had been cancelled. We found out midmorning on Thursday. We did our best to get the word out. We tried to send an email to those that went to our workshops on Saturday, as well as a blast email to all DCM's. Some of the emails we sent out bounced. A few of you showed up at a considerable expense. This was the second one this year that was cancelled at the last minute. Unfortunately, we are at the mercy of the Georgia Department of Corrections.

Ken and I discussed it and concluded that we must come up with a better plan. If you are interested in attending our next training

(January 26 at 8 a.m.), please send an email to corrections@aageorgia.org. Give us your name, phone number and email address. We will notify you if something like this occurs in the future. Again, we thank you for your willingness to serve our confined friends behind the walls and we are sorry that you must wait until January.

My time as your Committee Chair is coming to an end. September was my last Assembly. This will be my final Message article. I will be attending the 2nd National Corrections Conference in Portland, Maine on November 2-4. I will give my report to Ken so that he can pass it on to you.

Hope to see many of you there. It has been my honor and such a privilege to serve Area 16. Thanks for allowing me to serve!

ARCHIVES/ archives@aageorgia.org

Gratitude in Action

By Fred I., Chair
Mike S, Co-Chair
Area 16 Archives Committee

November is referred to as Gratitude Month to honor a man who helped many in their journey to sobriety. He was warmly called "The Prince of Twelve Steppers" by his friend Bill W. Together, they established a working **framework** to reach each one of us who has joined this fellowship.

Dr. Robert Holbrook S. (Dr. Bob) of Akron, Ohio was actively involved in helping others and worked tirelessly throughout the winter of his life. His accomplice, Sister Ignatia, was asked after his passing to head the new treatment ward at St. Vincent Charity Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1952. When naming this new ward, she chose Rosary Hall Solarium for the doctor's initials R.H.S., which was her way of honoring and maintaining his anonymity. Gratitude, as expressed by service, is the balance we all seek.

Dr. Bob had a plaque on his office desk that read:

Humility is perpetual quietness of heart. It is to have no trouble. It is to be never fretted or vexed, irritable or sore; to wonder at nothing that is done to me, to feel nothing against me. It is to be at rest when nobody is praising me, and when I'm blamed or despised, it is to have a blessed home in myself where I can go in and shut the door, to kneel in secret to My Father, and be at peace, as in a deep sea of calmness when all about me is seeming trouble.

Quote from Rev. Andrew Murray

THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA

Birthdays Contributions

District 3, Zone A

Union Street Group
Christine L – September 18, 2013

District 5, Zone A

Meldrim 17/30 Group
MaryAnne T – July 11, 1987

District 5, Zone B

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

District 7, Zone A

New Beginnings Group
Tony R – August 11, 2015
The Surrender Group
Fran L – September 12, 2011

District 7, Zone B

Warner Robins 24 Hour Group
Frank W – July 16, 2000

District 8

I Am Responsible Group
Ken P – September 6, 2006
Tennille Big Book Group
Grant C – June 6, 1976
Wrightsville Serenity Group
Theresa C – July 1, 2011

District 11, Zone C

McDonough Group
John F – May 12, 2011

District 13, Zone A

Chapter 3 Group
Debi K – July 11, 2003

District 16, Zone E

Lakeland Group
Debra P – September 13, 2003

New Groups

District 8

Simplicity Group
First United Methodist Church
305 W Gaines St
Dublin, GA 31021
Tuesday and Friday at 7:30 p.m.

District 13, Zone A

Keep It Simple Group
Temple Sinai
5645 Dupree Dr
Sandy Springs, GA 30327
Tuesday 7:00 p.m.

District 13, Zone H

Ladies Night In Decatur Group
First Christian Church of Decatur
601 West Ponce De Leon Ave
Decatur, GA 30030
Wednesday 7:30 p.m.

Things We Cannot Change

District 5, Zone B

Midway Group
Gladys G.
Passed — August 22, 2018
Sobriety Date — February 1, 2013

Delegate Continued from Page 1

consider participating in a mobile app called "MEETING GUIDE" that has been created to help alcoholics find AA meetings across the US, Canada and beyond". There was very good and thoughtful discussion on this motion during our last Assembly.

Over this past year it has been my responsibility, pleasure, and honor to travel to New York to represent Area 16-Georgia and AA as a whole; thank you. It has also been my pleasure to meet many of you as we participated in our Assembly, Cluster Forums and convention, and to make myself available to you—this has been my primary focus of service in 2018.

I want to wish you and your families a very happy holiday season. I hope to see you all at our next cluster forum in Atlanta and at our next Assembly in January.

THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA IS PUBLISHED BY AREA 16

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We Share II:

Update to Our Georgia Experience

This limited edition book contains the history of A.A. Groups in Georgia, submitted by the Groups for this publication.

Select **Buy Online** from the aageorgia.org website to purchase this book and discover the growth of A.A. in Georgia.

We Share Trivia Challenge

*Each Sunday during November & December 2018 a trivia question related to We Share II will be posted to the Area 16 website: aageorgia.org. The first five people to respond with the correct answer will win that week's contest. The person(s) with the largest number of correct answers by December 31st will win the 2018 **We Share Trivia Challenge**. The winner will receive a hard cover book of their choosing from those available for sale on the Area 16 website: aageorgia.org.*



MACON MARRIOTT CITY CENTER RESERVATIONS NEED A ROOM AT THE MARRIOTT FOR ASSEMBLY?

SELECT THE LINK

[GSSA REGISTRATION PAGE](#)

TO ACCESS THE GSSA DEDICATED REGISTRATION SITE AND RECEIVE THE NEGOTIATED ROOM RATE. OR, CONTACT YOUR DCM TO OBTAIN THE HYPERLINK. THE CUTOFF DATE IS DECEMBER 31, 2018.

ROOM RESERVATION COMES WITH FREE WI-FI

Acceptance of the daily WiFi rate when connecting will not result in a charge if you registered under the GSSA Group Rate.

THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA

**Georgia State Service Assembly
Business Meeting Minutes
Sunday, Sept. 16, 2018
Pending Approval at the January 2019 Business Meeting**

DELEGATE'S SHARING—Rick M. Rick began his sharing with a welcome and acknowledgement of all attendees at this 3rd assembly in 2018. Rick then thanked several individuals for their participation over the weekend and thru 2018 and went into a few general comments before giving this detailed sharing report:

Change of Conference Date I received the following message from GSO on July 9th:

"The General Service Office has discovered a mistake with our signed 2019 hotel Conference dates. Our current contract is for April 21-27, 2019. The approved Conference dates, as voted on during the 2016 Conference, are April 28-May 4, 2019. The urgency of this matter was discussed last week with the Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions, along with the trustees' Committee on the Conference. It was recommended that all Conference members be polled as soon as possible.

Following discussion, including the necessity of altering some post-Conference assemblies and our continued attempt at being mindful of major holidays, it was recommended that:

The dates of the 2019 Conference be moved to the first week available to hold our Conference, May 19-May 25, 2019. If the motion passes, the expected result will be to incur no additional charges or penalties and would allow more time for translations. (If we must otherwise walk away from our hotel contract, there will be a penalty of \$142,000.)

If the motion fails, Conference members would need to agree to change the dates of Conference to April 21-April 27. Again, without additional charges or penalties but falling on major holidays. (Note that in this case, the dates would need approval by polling the General Service Conference)."

The short answer to this dilemma is we, the 137 A.A. General Service Conference members, voted in favor of the May 19-May 25, 2019 date for the 2019 General Service Conference by a 2/3 majority vote. The entire (polling) process was done by email. This means I will be in New York at the General Service Conference during our May 2019 assembly. We did hold a meeting of our Office Committee and some of our Past Delegates and, a Past Treasurer, to discuss this situation (thank you to our Office Committee, Tom H., Patty L., David M., & Harold I. for your input!). In keeping with what Bill W. called "The Committee Process", two committees had met and decided upon the new date of May 19-May 25, 2019 (the Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions, along with the trustees' Committee on the Conference). I have faith and trust in their decision and recommendation (I did vote in favor of this recommendation).

In my absence during the May 2019 Assembly, our Alternate Delegate, Debi will take my place. This confirms the good reason for having "alternates & co-chairs" in our structure. I have great confidence Debi can and will do the job of filling in for me. As far as my Report-back from Conference, I'm thinking (not confirmed yet, more to be revealed....) this may give me the opportunity to try some of the "A.A. Technology: Where Innovation Meets the Traditions". I may create and post a Report-back video & document. Districts, GSRs, and Area 16 could then stream the video and download the accompanying report. I am still willing to travel to your zones, districts, and groups to report in-person.

Conference Final Report I know you are all eager for the delivery of the Conference Final Report. Our Publishing shares that it has taken longer than hoped to prepare this year's Final Report. Essentially, there are two reasons for the longer-than-desired delay:

The report is considerably longer than its predecessors, in part because of all the material related to the Manuscript issue which is included in full as part of the report of the General Service Board; additionally, by Conference action, the committee considerations of each committee, along with the delegate area highlights, are printed in their entirety, requiring additional time for translation, etc., whereas in prior years these aspects of the report were simply summarized; and the unusual confluence of events stemming from additional Conference actions that put 3 totally revised pamphlets, two completely new pamphlets, a bevy of other corrections and updates, and an every-other-year edition of the Service Manual (all items in 3 languages) on the publishing plate at the same time.

These factors were on top of the already rigorous schedule of regular reprints, newsletters, book updates and revisions.

GSO Communications Audit We have begun to share our general reactions to the findings and to look for ways for the Boards (GSB, AAWS and AAGV) and offices to be better communicators within our principles. We have held a few meetings involving the Boards, the ad hoc subcommittee that I formed, the internal GSO and GV core team and GSO staff.

GSO Contributions Through the end of June \$4.5 million.

Area 16 Contributions

- Contributions \$59,837.00
- Groups 791
- Groups Contributing 376
- % of Groups 47.5%

Thank You!!

GSO Literature Updates from Conference So, I am delighted to inform you that these three are in process and GSO anticipate the items will be available by the end of August:

THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA

23. The revised pamphlet "A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic," retitled "Experience, Strength and Hope: LGBTQ Alcoholics in A.A.," be approved with minor edits provided by Publishing regarding use of gender specific language.

25. The draft pamphlet "Experience, Strength and Hope: A.A. for Alcoholics with Mental Health Issues – and their sponsors" be approved.

30. The pamphlet "The God Word" (currently published by the General Service Board of A.A., Great Britain) be adopted by A.A. World Services, Inc. with minor editorial changes.

And the following revised pamphlets have just now completed printing and soon will be on AA.org, available to all: Experience, Strength, and Hope: Women in A.A.; Inside A.A.; GSR (revised title)
There should be a posting on AA.org under "What's New" announcing all this.

Grapevine News Visit Grapevine's new online store at: <http://www.aagrapevine.org/store>

Buy Subscriptions!!

Two new Books: *One Big Tent* (Atheist and Agnostic AA member's stories) Available: September 20, 2018

Frente a Frente One on One (Sponsorship book) translated into Spanish

Manuscript Update from GSO:

"Dear General Service Conference members, I am writing to inform you that the General Service Office was recently contacted by a representative of the current owner of the 1939 Printer's Copy Manuscript of Alcoholics Anonymous, inquiring as to our interest in exhibiting the Manuscript on loan at G.S.O.

Expressing gratitude for the offer, I indicated that our existing G.S.O. Archives policy precludes us from accepting or displaying any archival material on loan. Thereby, we would have to decline the opportunity to exhibit the Manuscript.

In bringing this matter to your attention, I have also informed the General Service Board and the A.A. World Services Board of this inquiry and my response.

I hope that you are having a great season of service as you report out to the Fellowship the work of our productive 2018 Conference, and, as you make such reports, please feel free to share this latest information.

In fellowship and service,

Greg"

Story Solicitation GSO has responded to two 2018 General Service Conference Advisory Actions requesting the development of two pamphlets: 1) A.A.'s Three Legacies, with emphasis on the history of the Three Legacies, how they work together, including personal stories of members' experiences with the Three Legacies. 2) A.A. recovery experience from Spanish-speaking women in A.A. to include personal stories with a wide range of recovery experience. Manuscripts should be 500-800 words, double spaced, in 12-point font. The author's complete name, address and email/ phone information should be included with the submission. Submissions can be emailed to Literature@aa.org with either "Three Legacies", or "Spanish-speaking women in A.A." in the subject line of the message. Alternatively, submissions can be mailed to: Literature Coordinator, General Service Office, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163.

The deadline for submissions is November 19, 2018. The anonymity of all authors will be observed, whether their story is selected for publication. Thank you for your participation in this process.

RECOGNITION OF PAST AREA OFFICERS —Ben D., past treasurer; David M., past delegate, past treasurer; Diane M., past treasurer; Glenda M., past secretary, past office manager; Harold I., past treasurer

RECOGNITION OF SPANISH ORAL TRANSLATORS—Frankie M., Sindy T.

**MAY 2018 GSSA BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES APPROVED BY SHOW OF HANDS
65TH PREPAID CONVENTION (ATHENS) REPORT--Jim T., Convention Chair**

Dates: Friday, Oct. 26th – Sunday, Oct. 28, 2018, (40 Days away!)

Venue: The Classic Center, 300 N. Thomas Street, Athens, GA 30601

State of the art facility, newly renovated, seating for 1700 (Grand Hall 1-7), On-site Hospitality Suite.

Host Hotels:

- Hilton Garden Inn: 160 Rooms. *Sold out!!!*
- Holiday Inn: 0.3 mile away, \$109/night; 125 rooms reserved
- Holiday Inn Express: 0.5 mile away, \$99/night; 100 Rooms reserved

Cutoff date for Reservations is October 5, 2018

Speaker Committee Report: Jeff Y.

Speakers:

Bill S., Roswell, GA

Kristina W., San Anselmo, CA

Tammy Z., Humble, TX

Clif G., Oklahoma City, OK

Korbyn B., Springfield, MO

Lori G. (AFG), Oklahoma City, OK

THE GEORGIA MESSAGE OF AA

Registration Report: Kelly G.—1109 registered (updated Sunday AM).

Planned Activities: Golf Tournament (Jennings Mill CC), Motorcycle Poker Run, Fun Run/Walk (Sandy Creek Park), Yoga, Georgia-Florida Game Viewing and Meal (\$15). AA and Al-Anon Workshops, Open AA & Al-Anon Meetings. Hal-loween Dance on Saturday Night (Band). Double A Café (Open Mic). State Botanical Garden Tour (\$5), Georgia Museum of Art Tour (Free), UGAAA Sanford Stadium Tour (Free). *Information Flyers for off-site events will be available at the Activities Table in the Classic Center Atrium. ***Please register online at aageorgia.org or at our Registration Table!**

ALTERNATE DELEGATE REPORT—Debi K.

2018 Cluster Forum Themes

“A.A. —A Solution for All Generations

- **Today’s Alcoholic:** Inclusion, Not Exclusion
- **Participation in All of A.A.-** Is My Triangle Balanced?
- **A.A. Technology:** Where Innovation Meets the Traditions
- **Attraction Not Promotion:** A.A.’s Relation to the World
- **Group Conscience:** The Guiding Force

We will vote on 2019 Cluster Forum theme voted on at the 68th General Service Conference at the Business Meeting: “Our Big Book — 80 Years, 71 Languages.”

We’ve held three Cluster Forums this year with great attendance:

Southwest
95+ in Attendance

West Central
130+ in Attendance

Northeast
75+ in Attendance

Our final **Cluster Forum 2018** will be held Sat., Nov 10 at the First United Method Church in Tucker from 9:00 – 1:00.

Prepaid Convention:

Our Georgia State PrePaid Convention will be held Athens Oct 26-28 in Athens. Please register while you are here at Assembly or online at aageorgia.org. Future Prepaid Conventions include **Savannah Oct 2019** and **Callaway 2020**. **Talk to your districts about considering a bid for 68th Prepaid Convention in October 2021. We will be taking bids at the January Assembly.** The information you need to include in your bid is outlined in the Georgia Service Manual as follows: In January, the DCM makes his/her district’s bid for the convention, two years in advance. This presentation should include the exact dates, location, names of hotels or motels, rates of lodging and meals, capacities of auditoriums and other pertinent information including the desirability of holding the convention in a particular district.

Upcoming GSSA Events 2018

Corrections Certification Training	Macon Sept. 22 8:00-12:00
65th Georgia PrePaid Convention	Athens Oct. 26-28
2nd National Corrections Conference	Portland, Maine Nov. 2-4
DCM Planning Meeting	Macon GSSA Office Nov. 3 1:00-3:00
Metro Cluster Forum	Tucker Nov. 10 9:00-1:00
PI/CPC Workshop	Cherry Log Nov 17 3:00 – 6:00
Southeast Regional Forum	Sterling, VA Nov. 16-18
Grape-a-thon	McDonough Nov. 10 9am-12pm
Georgia AA Service Assembly	Macon January 18-20, 2019

District 17 has been awarded the bid for the Spanish National Convention in 2019. It will be held at the Crowne Plaza Ravinia in Dunwoody, August 30th-September 6th.

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OFFICE COMMITTEE CHAIR—Rebecca T.

Office update—A new lease has been signed for the facility we are in. We have 2 new computers with 24-hour tech support. The unused stairwell to the upstairs floor has been removed, as well as and a closet in the Archives room, giving us more space in Archives and the big room. New shelving for literature is being made. We now have a more functional work space in the office.

SECRETARY REPORT—Joan M. Attendance Report

DCMs	42
Alt. DCMs	23
District Secretary/Treasurer	5
GSRs	237
Alt. GSRs	62
Group Secretary/Treasurer	15
Grapevine Reps	3
Treatment Reps	7
Correction Reps	11
Communications Reps	7
PI/CPC Reps	8
Archives Reps	7
Members-at-Large	39
TOTAL	466

Blue Folders

DCMs are receiving a folder this weekend corresponding to their district/zone. Included are: forms to update district/zone trusted servant information; and one sheet per group in their district to update meeting information, and trusted servant information. We ask that each DCM have their trusted servants and groups review the information on the sheets, making any necessary changes, by placing one line thru the incorrect information and writing legibly alongside the crossed-out information with the new information. The folders are to be turned in to Tamera at the DCM planning meeting in November. Your updated information will be changed with GSO, in our find-a-meeting section on our website, and in the Area 16 Directory (which you will receive a copy of at the January assembly). **When making changes to an address, please make sure to include apartment numbers, suite numbers, unit, lot or any other information needed for you to receive your mail.**

GSO Announcement—There is an opening for two staff positions at the General Service Office in NYC. Applicants should be active members of A.A. with a minimum of six years of sobriety. They would work at each of the 13 service desks, rotating every two years; represent GSO at A.A. functions throughout the US and Canada; will be the primary support for the General Service Board and its committees and the General Service Conference.

Minimum qualifications for this position are:

- Excellent communication and organizational skills
- Good computer skills
- Flexibility to travel and work flexible hours
- Ability to work as a team member and independently
- Willingness to relocate to NYC if necessary
- A.A. service knowledge and experience is considered
- Fluency in French or Spanish is a plus
- One position requires a bilingual candidate (Spanish)

GSO Opening— Nontrustee Alcoholic Committee Member for Trustees' Committee on Literature. In part, GSO's correspondence read: "Currently, A.A. literature directed towards Spanish-speaking women alcoholics is being developed. Thus, the committee would like to hear from A.A. members (preferably bilingual) with experience carrying the message to Spanish speaking women alcoholics."

Desirable qualities are:

- Expertise in and/or familiarity with the use of current technology and communications tools
- Available time to attend the meetings of the trustees' committee to which appointed
- At least five years of continuous sobriety
- The ability to work within the committee structure
- Experience in A.A. service, and in carrying the message to the Spanish-speaking alcoholic (bilingual preferred)


Thanks for allowing me to serve as your Area 16 Secretary. It's been an honor and a privilege to serve.

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TREASURER REPORT—Rusty L.—

The numbers being reported are thru August 31, 2018. In August, the Budget and Finance Committee put together a proposed 2019 budget which was provided to the DCMs this weekend. They will share the proposed budget with their GSRs to take back to their groups and discuss with their members. (The budget will also be online at aaGeorgia.org, and is password protected). At the DCM planning meeting in November, they will discuss and vote on the proposed budget. We incorporated new requests from the committees: new workshops, conferences, literature and supplies. Thanks to the Budget and Finance Committee for their work.


I have gratitude for allowing me to serve for the past two years.

 INCOME			
	2018 Budget	2018 Actual	2018 Difference
Ordinary Income	\$ 112,824.97	\$ 119,732.50	\$ 6,907.53
Literature Income and Interest	\$ 69,733.32	\$ 81,804.50	\$ 12,071.18
Total Income	\$ 182,558.29	\$ 201,537.00	\$ 18,978.71


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 EXPENSES			
	2018 Budget	2018 Actual	2018 Difference
COMMITTEES	\$ 24,206.22	\$ 15,316.18	(\$ 8,890.04)
ASSEMBLY	\$ 26,871.59	\$ 27,218.60	\$ 347.01
OPERATIONS	\$ 68,994.35	\$ 68,801.50	(\$ 192.85)
LITERATURE	\$ 62,191.66	\$ 65,275.20	\$ 3,083.54
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 182,263.82	\$ 176,611.48	(\$ 5,652.34)

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 EXPENSES BY COMMITTEE			
	2018 Budget	2018 Actual	2018 Difference
OFFICE COMMITTEE	\$ 5,453.34	\$ 2,963.43	(\$ 2,489.91)
PI/CPC	\$ 1,193.32	\$ 625.99	(\$ 567.33)
COMMUNICATIONS	\$ 5,780.72	\$ 1,412.00	(\$ 4,368.72)
TREATMENT	\$ 1,360.00	\$ 1,630.49	\$ 270.49
CORRECTIONS	\$ 2,360.00	\$ 1,151.35	(\$ 1,208.65)
ARCHIVES	\$ 3,548.88	\$ 3,365.30	(\$ 183.58)
GRAPEVINE	\$ 1,126.64	\$ 1,077.24	(\$ 49.40)
MISCELLANEOUS	\$ 3,383.32	\$ 3,090.38	(\$ 292.94)


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 TOTALS			
	2018 Budget	2018 Actual	2018 Difference
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 182,558.29	\$ 201,537.00	\$ 18,978.71
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 182,263.82	\$ 176,611.48	(\$ 5,652.34)
DIFFERENCE	\$ 294.47	\$ 24,925.52	\$ 24,631.05

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 GSSA RESERVE FUND	
Current Reserve Fund Balance (as of 08/31/2018)	\$163,837.57
Operating Expenses (as of 12/31/2017)	\$169,863.80
Months of Operating Expense	11.6

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 PREPAID CONVENTION	
2018 Total Contributions	\$25,478.55
Reserve Fund Balance (as of 08/31/2018)	\$129,624.19
Number of Conventions per Reserve Balance (based on a 3-year rolling average of \$37,239.33)	3.48

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AD-HOC REPORTS

Motion—Have GSSA investigate increasing the availability of electronic means of making contribution at all area events.
Committee Members: Lisa H., DCM 13H-Chair; Emmitt P., DCM 11C; Ron S., DCM 3B; Tom R., DCM 16D

We did investigate the motion as stated but would like to make a point of clarification that the only area event that specifically takes donations for GSSA is the area assembly. Our research shows that increasing availability of electronic donations (for groups and for individual contributions) is feasible and we focused our research on finding the right functionality at the lowest cost.

In order to provide a recommendation to Area 16 regarding the pending motion, the ad hoc committee considered the following items when assessing donor tools and payment processors available.

1. Ease of use
2. Transaction fees
3. Privacy
4. Ownership/account structure
5. Member management
6. Transfer of ownership.

I have attached a separate spreadsheet with the many options that were investigated:

1. Apple Pay
2. Donor Box
3. Give by cell
4. Give Lively
5. Google paysend
6. Google Wallet
7. Go Pay
8. Pay pal and PayPal for nonprofits
9. Square cash
10. Square point of sale
11. Stripe
12. Tilt
13. Txt2give
14. Venmo

From the Box 459 article on passing the digital basket, holiday issue 2017: “Digital contributions themselves are nothing new in A.A. In 2010, G.S.O. launched its Contributions Online system, a web-based Internet application that allows both groups and individual members to make recurring contributions to the U.S./Canada General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous via credit card or e-check.”

Across America, A.A. groups are beginning to make electronic donations available and have coined the phrase “passing the digital basket”. Some of our research and contribution of information (which we did verify for our report) came from the San Francisco bay area (www.aasf.org/digitalcontributions). Groups in the bay area and New York are currently using Venmo for nonprofits. Venmo would have been a wonderful option but, unfortunately, they are no longer taking nonprofit groups and are therefore not an option. The Galano club in Atlanta is using GiveLively that has a functionality that allows text donations to be made to specific groups at the Club house who choose to take electronic donations. The trend to not have cash on hand is growing and it is likely that more and more groups will turn to taking electronic donations due to their ease of use and low costs.

Viable options for increasing availability of electronic 7th tradition donations at area assembly:

1. **PayPal for nonprofits:** PayPal is already in place for buying literature and taking group and individual donations online on the GSSA website. Currently, at assembly, the state office is setup with computers to use PayPal for literature and Grapevine sales and they could easily take donations. There is a third computer (not currently in use but which could be obtained) that could be set up in the back of the assembly room and could be solely dedicated for taking donations.

Pros:

- a. It's already in place. The fees for setup and operating costs have already been paid. It would be a matter of increasing awareness and accessibility.
- b. PayPal has brand familiarity and comfort as well as being easy to use.
- c. A PayPal app can be downloaded and donations can be easily made to GSSA through the app. This may be more appealing than going through the website.
- d. PayPal also offers different credit card payment options. GSSA currently has card readers but there is a tap and go reader that PayPal sells for \$16.00 which links with the app on a phone or tablet and may offer more flexibility and might increase availability to take donations.

Cons:

- a. Internet connectivity at the assembly can sometimes be an issue .

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- b. The younger generation, that mostly use Venmo, may not be as keen on using PayPal
- c. If we had computers setup to take donations there would be the issue of waiting in line- I'm not sure that people would be willing to stand in line to make a donation

2. Give Lively: Give Lively is very easy to set up and use. The donor just sends a text to a phone number that GSSA is assigned, puts in a code that is selected (such as "gssa") and is immediately sent back a text with a link that they can then access and make their contribution. All contributions could be made simply from the donor's phone.

Pros:

- a. Extremely easy to use.
- b. They have multiple options to help non-profits raise funds including a web page and text to page. The Galano club uses a website but customer service has said that you can opt to only use the text to donate option
- c. Internet connectivity is not an issue as donations are made by text and you just need cell connection
- d. Give Lively does not charge for their services. They are a nonprofit providing services for other nonprofits. Stripe is the third-party processor and is the competitor to PayPal. Their fees are better than PayPal in that they charge a lower fee for American express and using a bank account and PayPal charges a straight fee for all charges
- e. Stripe has newer software and purportedly (allegedly) better security

Cons:

- a. It would likely be in addition to PayPal as changing to stripe as a third-party processor would entail changing equipment which would have to be purchased and that may incur a separate fee for credit card processing of its own.

Discussion

Hunter P., GSR 13G, Northside YP Group - We have debated adamantly at our group whether this is a violation of the 6th Tradition. What are your thoughts about fees for making contributions going to a for profit corporation like PayPal?

Rusty L., Area Treasurer—We pay fees for everything we do—it's a cost of doing business. GSO pays fees for services; GSSA pays fees for services. Bank fees are listed in the budget as a part of doing business. It's just like calling a plumber to come fix a problem.

George S., DCM 13 G—Clarification: the only area event this is applicable to is the assembly. Would we not also use this at the PrePaid or at Cluster Forums? Are these not area events?

Rusty L.—Cluster Forums are area events but the money taken at that event goes to pay for the expenses of the Cluster Forum (CF). GSSA does not take any money from the CF. There has been an occasion where they ended up with extra money and made a special contribution to GSSA for \$10-\$20 to GSSA. The PrePaid is a "free" convention and the Pre-Paid account is separate from the GSSA account. Yes, it is a state event, but GSSA does not take up money at the Pre-Paid.

Whitney S., DCM 3A—My personal experience with these types of sites are security issues. I had my account hacked and money was taken out. Sometimes that is not refundable.

Motion —State Chair become an elected two-year position with the same qualifications as Delegate.

Committee Members: Bobby O., DCM 6—Chair, Genevieve B., DCM 13E, Patsy G., DCM 13D, Laura P., DCM 10B
The committee looked to three sources of information to come up with our recommendation

- Whether other Areas in the US and Canada elect their Chairperson position or use a rotation.
- Why Georgia established the position of Chairperson and the procedure by which it was first filled.
- The opinions of former state delegates about this motion.

For the first source of information, our committee split the Areas of the United States & researched if the position of State Chairperson was elected or one of automatic rotation. Out of a total of 93 Areas between the United States and Canada, the ad hoc committee and Rick received responses from 77 Areas. Of those 77 areas, only 3 have a rotation like Georgia's. That is 3.9%. Over 96% of the Areas surveyed elect their State Chairperson.

For the second source of information, we wanted to know how and why Georgia came to have this position. The following information came directly from the archives, and can be found in Assembly minutes between the years 1965 and 1968.

In January of 1965, our state Delegate also had the dual role of Assembly Chairperson: it was one combined position. The State Delegate at the time, Heflin D., expressed a need to have someone "take some of the workload." He designated a Study Committee, led by Lee K., to create recommendations for the PURPOSE of "having better communication, and help in the transfer of all business between the State Convention and the State Assembly." *This was the original purpose for having a State Chairperson. *

The 1965 study committee recommended that the State Chairperson be the retiring or outgoing State Delegate, UNLESS said Delegate wished not to serve as Chairperson. In this case the Chairperson would be elected from GSRs and area committeemen. ** It is important to note that Heflin D. did not want to roll into the Chairperson position. He expressed

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this several times. Regardless, he was kindly asked to consider the position. As Heflin D. rotated out as Delegate it was announced that he would, indeed, roll into the new position of State Chairperson. He served in that role at the following Assembly. However, later that same year, Heflin D. passed away. Charlotte D., his widow, was unanimously elected as the new Chairperson. As the end of her term approached in Sept 1967, Charlotte D. was then elected as Alternate Delegate. However, at the following Assembly in January 1968, the new State Chairperson, having rotated out from Delegate, reported that Charlotte D. had found it necessary to take a drink. Charlotte D offered her resignation and asked the Assembly to elect a new Alternate Delegate.

As our body decides whether to accept this motion, this brief history raises interesting questions. A yes vote on this motion would change the recommendation of Lee K's 1965 study committee, a recommendation that has been followed up to the present day. Why did this committee prefer rotation rather than election of the State Chairperson? Were there not enough sober trusted servants to fill two separate roles? Was rotation seen as the "easier softer way," rather than adding the time it would take to elect one more position? Or did the committee see it as imperative to have a Chairperson with experience serving as Delegate? Why did Heflin D. not want to automatically rotate into the Chairperson position? Was it because he wanted to honor the spirit of rotation? Was it due to personal reasons? The archives don't answer these questions, so we have to weigh them ourselves.

For the third source of information, our committee consulted with seven past Delegates for Area 16. Four of them opposed the motion. Rotation keeps past delegates involved, thereby keeping institutional knowledge on the office committee. This is invaluable, they say, for a large assembly like ours. The remaining three past Delegates could see value in election, and value in rotation. They did not hold strong opinions.

Our committee took into account the policies of other Areas in the US and Canada, the history of the establishment of the Chairperson position, and the opinions of seven former Delegates. We have made our recommendation based on the ideal behind all changes to our service manual: to represent the current membership, the current experience, strength and hope offered by participants in Area 16's service structure. We believe that today our pool of trusted servants is deep, and that there are many who are eager to serve, and capable of assuming the position of Chairperson without having been Delegate. Our recommendation takes into account the fact that 96% of the other Areas elect, rather than rotate, meaning that almost every other Area trusts that the new Chairperson can grow into the role. Finally, our recommendation draws from The Twelve Concepts of World Service. Under concept #9 it states, "Fortunately, our Society is blessed with any amount of real leadership – the active people of today and the potential leader of tomorrow as each new generation of able members swarms in. We have an abundance of men and women whose dedication, stability, vision, and special skills make them capable of dealing with every possible service assignment. We have only to seek these folks out and trust them to serve us."

Our recommendation:

This ad hoc committee believes that yes, the State Chairperson should be an elected position with the same qualifications as the Delegate. This is in line with The A.A. Service Manual page S36:

1. That the Qualifications of the Delegate on page # 18 be renamed to Qualifications of the State Chairperson and placed on page #20.
2. That #5 under qualifications be reworded to: "In office for 12 months of the year preceding election year as a D.C.M., Alternate Delegate or past Delegate who has not served, actively engaged in groups, district and the General Service Conference."
3. That "Chairperson shall be a past Delegate" be removed from page #20
4. Update page #29 – "Delegate, Alternate Delegate and Chairmen"
5. On page #32 under Chairperson we recommend the following paragraph:
"To be eligible to run for Chairperson, a candidate must first be available to run for Delegate. If he/she runs for Delegate, he/she must run for the Alternate and/or Chairperson (unless he/she has already served as Alternate or Chairperson) and all candidates will be placed once again on the blackboard for voting. The election procedure is the same as for the Delegate, with no deviations."
6. If this motion is passed it is recommend that nominations for State Chairperson be brought up at the May 2019 Assembly, to be voted on in September of 2019 and a begin date of January 1st 2020.

Discussion:

Tom R., DCM 16D—Clarification: with changes to the manual necessary, is there enough time to make this effective when they have recommended?

Rick M., Delegate—To clarify: when this ad hoc committee was asked to look at this motion, I asked them that if they decided this should be an elected position, which is not within the scope of what was asked for in the motion, but's good sense that you think about what are the impacts that it would make, and bring those back to us in the form of recommendations. I think from the sense of what they are talking about-manual changes and when to implement them, is not addressed with the motion, just something for you to think about and discuss. Right now, we just want to know their recommendation on the motion. Yes, they did do a little research beyond that, but we need to stick with the motion.

Ernie M., Chairperson—On page 32 of the GSSA Manual under Chairperson, it reads: The immediate past Delegate automatically becomes the Chairperson. If the past Delegate does not choose to assume this office, then the same election procedure shall be followed with the candidates coming from the qualified past Delegates." That was not in what you reported as being qualified past delegates.

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George S., DCM 13G—The intent of the original motion was to have more opportunity for people to serve at the Area level as opposed to what we have now. I agree with that. As I read the manual, the only qualification to be a delegate is to be a DCM in office the 12 months, preceding election. Is that correct? We would have many DCMs who qualify that would step up. I don't know if being past delegate needs to be a qualification for chairperson.

Rebecca T.—Read the “Qualifications of the Delegate” from the Georgia A.A. Service Manual on page 18.

John O., Alt GSR Turning Point Group—If this motion is approved, it will significantly change the Georgia A.A. Service Manual. Is there a way to know all the changes to the Manual prior to accepting the motion?

Rick M.—We have a great Communications Committee that handles changes to our Georgia Manual. I hope we think about the principle first and then about the ramifications.

Richard R., Co-chair Treatment/Accessibilities, GSR Hahira Grp—I've been coming to the Assembly since the '70s. I've watched this process work smooth. If it's not broke, why are we trying to fix it?

Tom, GSR Generation X, Kennesaw—Ad hoc committee reported that 96% of the Areas do not rotate as we do. Sounds to me that 96% of the Areas trust their GSRs and respected home groups to elect the person that needs to be in that position. My experience: it's important to have these positions open so we can have more people get involved in whatever aspect of serviced it is. If we decide to elect this position, we still hear the resumes of those standing. The delegate would still get to stand for chairperson. Trust the people to make the decisions.

Kristen, GSR Moon Road Group, Columbus—Please state the current order of positions thru Area Chair.

Rebecca T.—Alternate delegate elected for 2 years. Delegate is elected for a 2-year position. After delegate, you automatically rotate into the Assembly Chairperson position for 2-years, then automatically rotate into the Office Committee Chair for 2-years. Once elected delegate, you have a 6-year commitment.

Rusty L., Treasurer—When you said 96% elect their chairperson, I took that to mean everyone elected the chairperson as its own position. Later you commented that other Areas just elect their chairs first, then they rotate into other positions. It's misleading that just because they do it a different way, doesn't mean it's not a long rotation. Do you have the numbers that elect a chairperson only as the chair, and do not rotate into any other position? Looking for apples to apples comparison, not just a flipping of how the rotation occurs.

Bobby O.—The percentage we gave is 96% of the Areas polled elect either alternate chair, chair, alternate delegate, or delegate. They have no automatic rotation into another position above.

John R., DCM District 9—96% of the Areas are electing this way. Georgia is still one of the only Areas that has a Pre-paid Convention. We love it. We don't follow the same drummer as most other Areas. Why are we trying to follow them now?

Kevin M., Alt GSR, Cartersville Closed Discussion Group—4th Tradition: each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole. Why do we care what 96% of the other Areas do? Area 16 is autonomous.

Tom R.—Are there any Areas you saw that changed from the system we currently use to the system being proposed?

Bobby O.—We did not ask the three that have rotation why they did it that way.

MOTION—Office Chair become a two-year elected position with same qualifications as Delegate.

Committee Members

Terry P., DCM 5A, served as Chair; Phillip G., DCM 10C; William R., DCM 2A; Mitch M., DCM 7B

The Ad Hoc Committee came to a unanimous decision of not being in favor of motion.

Ad Hoc Committee members were given a packet of responses from Areas across USA & Canada, from the Georgia State Delegate Rick M., to use as a reference on their procedures.

Each committee member talked with past Delegates to get their opinions on this motion.

The Ad Hoc committee had a conference call to discuss this motion and each member's research findings. In a unanimous decision, the committee agreed that the Office Chair position needs to have the experience of having held the State Delegate position. One of the duties of the Office Chair is to encourage, council, and guide the State Delegate while holding that position of service.

Committee discussed a change in procedure could add more expenses to an already stressed state budget. If passed, this would add more time to an already time-consuming voting process. The Ad Hoc Committee concluded this position

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should remain unchanged in the procedure that is now used for position of Office Chair.

On behalf of the committee, we would like to thank our Delegate, Rick M., for appointing us and allowing us to be of service.

Discussion

Joan M., Chapter 3 Group, 13A—You mentioned there would be a cost. What are you referring to?

Terry P.—The cost we discussed is the cost to change the GA State Manual printing.

Janie C., Lakeland Group—Where in the GA State Manual are the duties for the Office Chair outlined?

Ernie M.—It is not in our Manual.

Harold I., past Area Treasurer—Historical background for this position: it was created in the mid '80's with the driving forces being Joe P., past Delegate and Trustee, Frankie F., past Delegate, Keith S., and Glen S., and they had 3 reasons for it. 1) Bringing forward experience—they felt we needed legacy experience to remain on the Office Committee (OC) 2) To have an odd number of people on the OC to have a significant majority 3) Joe P. was standing for Trustee, and they wanted him to have a service position while standing for Trustee. Joe P. was the first Office Chair and was the first person from GA to be elected as Trustee.

Lydia S., DCM 5C—Can we have a reading of the Office Chairperson's duties?

Rebecca T.—Actual duties are not listed in our Manual. Serving in the position, I work with the Office Committee (OC); set up agenda for OC meetings; the point person between Tamera and the OC; work with the hotel on assembly contracts; resource for Chairperson to run this business meeting; pass experience to Delegate; main duties are at the assembly level, but still there to assist groups and committees.

Bobby O., DCM 6—Since there is no information in the Manual for Office Chairperson, read on pg. 32 in the GA Service Manual states (Chairperson) "...If the past Delegate does not choose to assume this office, then the same election procedure shall be followed with the candidates coming from the qualified past Delegates." Only. You can only draw from past Delegates, who then automatically rotates into Office Chair. You lose all eligible persons who can stand for Delegate by automatically rotating into that position.

Amy S., Greenhouse Group, Norcross—Because you have the qualifications to stand for Alternate or Delegate, does not mean you have the experience of the Alternate or Delegate to be the Office Chair.

Amy B., Baldwin County Group—Is there a reason why there isn't a description of the duties of the Office Chair in the Manual currently?

Ernie M.—No there is not.

Jim B., DCM 1B—Is there a description for the duties for the Office Committee? The Office Chair is just a member of that committee.

Rebecca T.—Read pg. 39 in the GA A.A. Service Manual under "GA State Service Assembly Office."

Jim B.—So, that would be the Office Chairs' duties?

Ernie M.—Yes.

Terry P.—One of the deciding factors of not being in favor of this Motion, is as we have just seen, two past Delegates have been giving us this information. We would lose all their experience if they were elected, not rotated.

Karen A., DCM 11B—Considering the description of the qualifications of the Office Chair, it would be an Executive Administration Position in the corporate world. So why do we need it to have the same qualifications as for Delegate? The motion was made in the spirit to allow more people to serve in this position.

Ernie M.—Motion reads "...with the qualifications necessary to be delegate."

NEW BUSINESS

Approve themes for 2019 Cluster Forums using 2019 General Service Conference Themes:
Our Big Book – 80 Years, 71 Languages

- Yesterday's World – Our Legacies Begin

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- Today's World – Demonstrating Integrity, Anonymity and Service

- Tomorrow's World – Courage to be Vigilant

Show of hands—all in favor

Election of Area Secretary and Treasurer, using the 3rd legacy procedures on pgs. 30-31 in the GA Service Manual.

Roll call taken by Secretary, determining 248 eligible voters.

Secretary

Round 1—246 votes cast; need 164 votes for 2/3 majority; on to Round 2

Round 2—243 votes cast; need 162 votes for 2/3 majority; Amy, Mark and Pat drop off

Round 3—238 votes cast; need 159 for 2/3 majority; Tracy M. is elected as Secretary with 190 votes.

Treasurer Christy G. is standing for this position unopposed. By a show of hands, all in favor; none opposed. Christy G. is elected as Treasurer.

General Sharing

Cathy K., Alt. GSR 15A One Day at a Time Group — Motion: I make a motion that Area 16 consider participating in a mobile app called "MEETING GUIDE" that has been created to help alcoholics find AA meetings across the US, Canada and beyond. They are a non-profit organization run solely by volunteer AA members, and are supported by donations, there is no charge for the app and no ads.

Carrie M., GSR 15A Sisters in Sobriety—I second the motion.

Discussion

Joan M., 13A Chapter 3 Group—On a regular basis, Area 16 receives a request from Meeting Guide app to participate with them. We decline. The app has a tab "News", under their dropdown, which has two sections. One says "GV and LaVina want to hear from you", which offers a survey; the other section deals with news from GSO. The survey is also on the aagrapevine.org homepage. Towards the end of the survey they ask where you heard of it, with one choice being "Meeting Guide". I spoke with Janet B., GV Office Manager in NY, who said they knew the survey was on the app, and they were working closely with the developers. I asked if she considered this affiliation with an outside enterprise, and her response was she didn't know. I believe this is affiliation. Possibly our Delegate could reach out to other Areas and get their input about this app. References made to the A.A. Guidelines on the Internet (MG-18).

Rusty L.—Meeting Guide wants to directly link to the backend of our server to download meeting information. The app "Pink Cloud" has all our meeting information, but they do not link directly with GSSA. Their information is not always up to date. My opinion, is that we should not give anyone access to our database which is what Meeting Guide is requesting.

Micah, Co-chair PI/CPC—One of our current efforts in the Communication Committee is to sharpen the development of the "Find a Meeting" tool which already exists thru google maps. It was brought up at our workshop that Meeting Guide was more for travelers, between states. Consider: attention given to another tool would detract from what we are currently working on at GSSA. If people are not hitting the A.A. GA website, they are also not getting access to the additional services we offer at the Area. GSO is potentially developing meeting app.

Cathy K.—I did use this when I was traveling and it was handy. In places not connected to Meeting Guide, you are directed to the local A.A. website. Meeting Guide is all over the world; manned by A.A. volunteers; not for profit.

Tom R., DCM 16D—We are missing the word "control". We have control over what our website looks like. This company can change what they do, whenever they want, including advertisement. We have no control over that.

Inaudible, GSR 13B—I do this for a living for the state of Georgia. We do not let anybody have access to our database. That is not done in a professional situation. I would not think you want to do that with yours either. People could alter your database.

Rick M., Chapter 3 Group, Sandy Springs—I googled "Where can I find a meeting in GA?". We came up #3 in find a meeting in GA. A lot of work is put into our website: find a meeting, books, GSSA etc. I want people to find that. A new-comer looking for a meeting will google it before downloading an app. We should look at not only affiliation, but our own information as well.

Chris, GSR 16B, Sunrise —When traveling out of state I use aa.org, which lists every state, giving me local meeting

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sites. That's staying within the network of A.A. If someone wants to publish our information, they can get it off the web and publish on a 3rd party site.

Sindy T., Fresh Start Group, Douglasville—As a traveler, I appreciate aa.org. Whether I'm in Mexico, Columbia, anywhere, I can find quality information that people have already worked on and provided for me. We don't know what Meeting Guide will end up providing, or even if it will be in Spanish. If you are a newcomer, I think you want to go straight to the horses' mouth.

Daniel L., GSR, A Vision for You—When I first came to A.A. I used an app. Now I know there are A.A. websites. I didn't know that in the beginning. Maybe we need an app.

Miles, Alt GSR, First Things First Group—I make a motion to have an ad hoc committee started for the motion on the floor.

Daniel L.—I second the motion.

Ernie M.—May we have a show of hands to further research the motion .All in favor; Delegate to appoint a committee for further research.

Inaudible, Alt GSR 5C, Early Bird, Savannah—Motion to close.

Fran L.—2nd the motion to close.

Georgia Message Word Search

Fun in Sobriety!

W	S	C	H	O	B	V	Z	K	E	S	U	A	G	I
I	T	P	E	U	Q	L	R	N	S	X	L	Y	L	K
O	D	N	G	F	R	B	O	E	S	T	J	Q	A	R
X	U	F	H	N	S	R	N	I	E	Y	E	D	P	O
G	B	O	W	S	I	G	I	R	Z	D	I	T	P	W
S	P	E	D	G	N	K	N	C	E	Y	M	C	R	E
E	D	U	T	I	T	A	R	G	A	E	A	B	E	M
F	J	V	L	N	T	P	E	A	L	N	I	G	C	A
X	D	L	R	E	D	L	R	O	B	E	E	N	I	R
B	I	I	S	P	I	P	J	C	J	M	D	S	A	F
W	K	K	O	V	I	P	P	S	Y	U	E	D	T	A
R	X	W	I	T	N	E	S	S	B	U	W	A	E	W
F	I	R	U	L	F	M	Y	G	U	T	G	C	I	I
K	P	P	J	U	K	K	O	O	H	K	W	B	U	E
P	A	R	T	I	C	I	P	A	T	E	A	M	L	X

Play the
Georgia Message
Word Search

Read the Georgia
Message and look for
bolded words to find
the words that are
within the Word
Search.

Look in the Area
Office articles for words
in bold print.
Have Fun!

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CALENDAR of EVENTS

Events listed here are presented solely as a service to the readers, not as an endorsement by the

Month	Day(s)	Event
November	3 rd	DCM Planning Meeting Macon/GSSA 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
November	10 th	Metro Cluster Forum Tucker, GA Includes (13A,13B,13D,13E,13F,13G,13H,13I,13J,13K)
November	2 nd – 4 th	2nd Annual National Corrections Conference Portland, ME
November	16 th – 18 th	Southeast Regional Forum Sterling, VA
November	17 th	Dist 15B PI/CPC Workshop Cherry Log
December	2 nd	Metro Service Meeting NABA/Atlanta, GA

State Assembly. For any additional information, please use the addresses provided.

Article deadline for the January/February 2019 Georgia Message for AA is December 1, 2018

The Georgia Message for AA is available in print and in electronic form on the Area 16 website at:
www.aageorgia.org

There is no subscription fee for this newsletter, however all contributions are appreciated.

Contributions can be made electronically at www.aageorgia.org or by mailing to the following:

G.S.S.A.
P. O. Box 7325
Macon, Ga. 31209

Metro Atlanta Cluster Forum



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2018

**First United Methodist Church of Tucker
5095 Lavista Road
Tucker, GA 30084**

(In the Contemporary Worship Building)

Hosted by the Metro Atlanta Districts

For more info contact the DCM of District 13G at district13g@aageorgia.org

“A.A. – A Solution for All Generations”

Presentations and Skits on the following topics as well as Q&A:

Today's Alcoholic: Inclusion, Not Exclusion

Participation in All of A.A. – Is My Triangle Balanced?

A.A. Technology: Where Innovation Meets the Traditions

Attraction Not Promotion: A.A.'s Relation to the World

Group Conscience: The Guiding Force

REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 8:30 AM

PROGRAM: 9:00 AM TO 1:00 PM

Coffee and pastries in the morning and

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

What is a Cluster Forum? Forums provide a unique opportunity to share valuable experience, ask questions and spark new ideas.
How do they work? They are sharing sessions designed to enhance and widen communication among members of AA, service and potential service people, and representatives of the Groups, Districts and the Area.

¿Bilingüe?

*Enhance your
Recovery
through
Service!*



*Give back what
has been so
freely given!*

Help us “Carry the Message” to our Hispanic Members!

**We still need a few more written translators to meet the
current needs of our Hispanic Members.**

**If you, or someone you know, has the necessary skills to
be of service providing written Spanish translation please
complete the Translation Volunteer Form located under
the Communications Committee on the
[aageorgia.org](http://www.aageorgia.org) website.**

<https://www.aageorgia.org/communications.html>