**Delegate’s Sharing -Georgia State Service Assembly- Jan. 19, 2020**

Good morning, my name is Debi Keane. It is an honor to serve as your Panel 70 Area 16 Delegate. I want to welcome each of you to our January Assembly! If you are a new GSR stand up. Thank you! New Welcome to all our new DCMs and Committee Chairs and Co-chairs who will be introduced later in the business meeting. We also have a new member of our Office Committee, Jim Turner, Area Alternate Delegate. Welcome also to our first time Assembly Attendees! It really does take all of us so thank you for your service!

**What’s new from AAWS?**

If you are a new DCM or GSR and have not received your kit from our General Service Office, there has been a backlog and they’re working diligently to get these out. In the meantime, if you’re interested, these are available online at aa.org. The links are included in the PowerPoint and will be available in this report when posted online and in the Georgia Message my report. <https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/en_GSR_list.pdf> <https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/f-153_DCM_Kit.pdf>

What’s new in Corrections – I am excited to be serving on the Conference Corrections Committee at the 70th General Service Conference. We had our first conference call last week. Our corrections desk at GSO received over 400 letters a month over the last quarter which illustrates the continuous need for our support of correctional facilities. GSO is working on generating a data file on all meetings in correctional facilities. I know that Ken and David have been requesting that information as well. You can send it to them at [corrections@aageorgia.org](mailto:corrections@aageorgia.org) .

GSO would also like input on language alternatives to the terms currently used in corrections literature which currently refers to incarcerated individuals as “Inmates”. If you have served in a correctional facility or have been in a correctional facility and have any suggestions, please let me know so I can send it on to Brenda Brown at the GSO Corrections desk.

They will be adding a letter to professionals in the parole and probation field on Bridging the Gap to the *Corrections Workbook*. This will be a great tool for our District Corrections reps when working with these professionals in their communities.

AAWS publishing dept is working with the GV, who already has contracted with a vendor, to explore options for contracting with digital implementation of literature in prisons. Many of our correctional facilities are utilizing iPads rather than print media.

**Finance**

Finances during the first nine months of 2019. Final report is not yet available.

* Literature sales were 1.7% less than budget and 2.7% higher than last year. Gross profit from Literature was $7,292,987.
  + It’s interesting to note that there was a decrease in sales of *Daily Reflections* (9727 less books sold) which is available at no cost on the *Meeting Guide App.*
* Contributions were 4.9% higher than budget at $6,197,296.
  + Online contributions accounts for 10.73% of total contributions.
* Total revenue was $13,489,284 2.49% greater than budget; 3.76% greater than last year.
* Operating Expenses- were 9.94% greater than last year and 4.53% greater than budget.

Variances are mainly caused by contract reviews being over budget by $119,192 and legal fees $132,915 higher than budget. Contracted services were also over budget mainly due to ERP costs (transition from FNV). **AAWS is working on creating a policy for contract reviews and contracted services.**

**How many of you are planning on attending the International Convention in Detroit?**

I have a short video developed by GSO which is available on aa.org. Great video! Are you excited? The area around the convention center is beautiful. Detroit is ready to welcome us!

As of Oct 7, 2019, 21,000 people had registered (10,000 in the first 24 hours).

Downtown hotels are filled but many area hotels still have rooms and shuttle buses will be available.

Volunteer sign up will be available in late Feb/early March. This year there will be a General Service Booth along with the usual AAWS and Grapevine booths.

**From Technology, Communications, and Services**

**Our LinkedIn Page** is now live. The Alcoholics Anonymous World Services LinkedIn page provides information about A.A. at national professional events. This will provide information to our professional community. The LinkedIn page will be under the purview of the CPC desk to update and respond to requests.

**Did you know that AAWS and AA GV Have YouTube Channels? The YouTube Channel** is maintained by GSO for the US and Canada and includes the AA Preamble in the description.

There are videos published in English, French, and Spanish that include PSAs and videos for professionals. The YouTube channel name is Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. They are working on getting all videos published on the A.A. website onto the YouTube Channel.

There are currently 17 videos posted on the AA Grapevine YouTube Channel. These include audios of stories that were printed in the GV and a video from Class A Trustee Nancy McCarthy on using the GV for CPC work. There are also playlists included. I wanted to share one of the videos posted on our YouTube Channel that demonstrates how we are using technology to carry the message. This one is called “*Doors*”. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nXvcszOH60M&t=16s> Another way to carry our message!

Technology is changing the way AA communicates to suffering alcoholics and interacts with its members. *Box 4-5-9* is publishing a 3-part series on AA and Technology. Rick told you about the article on the Meeting Guide App in the Fall Issue of *Box 4-5-9*. The winter 2019 edition highlights the National AA Technology Workshop (NAATW) which will be held in Bellevue, WA Sept. 11-13. NAATW- is based on the model of the National AA Archives workshop.

Also highlighted in the Winter 2019 of Box 4-5-9 is a grassroots organization, Technology in AA online forum (TIAA), with over 700 members currently participating. Any interested AA Member can sign up at [tiaa-forum@aa.org](mailto:tiaa-forum@aa.org). It is important that technology issues be addressed from the perspective of our members. TIAA has developed 12 statements of Technology which I believe support what our Area expressed during our “Your Voice Matters” activity at the May Assembly. TIAA believes in implementing technology where it supports our Primary Purpose, an informed group conscience as part of technology decision-making, and the use of technology to make information available.

We, in Area 16, do not differ on how we feel about Carrying the Message to the still suffering alcoholic. Keith D. member of NAATW steering committee stated of Bill W, “I’m willing to bet if he were alive today, he’d say “how can we use this to make AA more effective?”

**Accessibility**

To make the program of recovery available to all members, AAWS has published an American Sign Language Translation of *Alcoholics Anonymous* and *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*. ! It is available on DVD for those who need ASL translation. You can view a sample on aa.org.

ASL translation will be available at the 2020 International Convention and videos will be made available for sale post-convention.

**Literature**

As usual, there is a lot going on at the Literature desk including a revision of several pamphlets and developing an informational video on the General Service Office, the Grapevine, and General Service Structure. We are also working on a revision to the policy on the *Publication of Literature*. This revision comes from a floor action by the 69th General Service Conference to recommit the proposed AAWS Policy on Publication of Literature back to the Trustee’s literature committee with an updated proposed policy brought to the 70th General Service Conference.

**We need your immediate input.** The literature committee formed a study committee tasked with the important work of providing research and background to help facilitate discussion on some of the agenda items regarding changes and

modifications to the Big Book. A piece of this research is looking into work created and produced by members or entities outside of the General Service Office and not been approved by the General Service Conference. Some of these items include:

* + EZ Big Book produced by Hazelden;
  + Manuscripts located online removing language around the word “God” from the first 164 pages; or
  + Manuscripts located online removing gender specific language from the first 164 pages.

If you are familiar with any of these and have feedback you would like to share, please email me at [delegate@aageorgia.org](mailto:delegate@aageorgia.org) so I may correspond with Katie H. who is leading this work.

**Publishing**

I always get excited when I hear of new language translations of our big book! Translation in Lesotho, a South African language, is in the final stages. Plans for translations in other African and South American languages are in the works as well as updates to translations for Hungary and the Czech Republic.

AA Continues to grow around the world! The delegate who represented Zimbabwe at the Sub-Saharan zonal meeting in South Africa reported making progress with carrying the message into correctional facilities there. Meetings started in two prisons!!

**Grapevine and LaVIna**

I mentioned earlier, Grapevine audio stories are now on the GV YouTube Channel. GV also signed a contract with an electronic vendor to get GV content into prisons. GV Subscriptions are down-if you do not subscribe to the GV, I would suggest you go online to aagrapevine.org and sign up. You can get the GV in print or digital media and it is a great tool for finding meeting topics and sharing with newcomers, treatment and detox centers, etc.

LaVina subscriptions are up for 2019 thanks to “local committee efforts and events”- Our own Chest of Hope initiative for the 2019 Spanish International Convention contributed to this increase! Thanks to those of you who purchased subscription certificates for our correctional facilities!

**Archives**

The Archives committee is looking for input from local A.A. Archivists in order to update the “Shared Experiences” section of the Archive Workbook. Contact Mike or David, our Archivists, at [archives@aageorgia.org](mailto:archives@aageorgia.org) if you have any information you would like considered for inclusion.

**Public Information**

Our Membership Survey to provide current trends in AA membership which is due for an update. The most recent membership survey was completed in 2014. At the request of the trustees committee on PI, a survey professional from Duke University has been hired to review the current A.A. Membership survey methodology. Final report will be reviewed by the committee this month.

**Treatment and Accessibilities**

The Treatment and Accessibilities desk is currently collecting stories to update the pamphlet” AA for the Older Alcoholic”. You can send to Richard and Karen at  [treatment@aageorgia.org](mailto:%20treatment@aageorgia.org) and they will get the story to the Treatment/Accessibilities desk in NY.

A steady flow of calls continues to come to the treatment and accessibilities desk from people who are looking for inpatient treatment resources. Our treatment reps should update their local information, so it is readily available when a request is made.

**Employment Opportunity**

If you’re ever interested in moving to New York to work at GSO, they are updating their file of applications for possible future openings for staff member positions. The qualifications are listed in the slide. (Minimum 6 years continuous sobriety; Service experience at group, possibly district and area; Business or professional experience; Excellent communication skills.) If interested, write the [staffcoord@aa.org](mailto:staffcoord@aa.org).

**That was all the news from our Trustees’ Committee and our General Service Office in NY, now what’s happening in Area 16?**

In May we received your input on the Communications audit. For those of you who were not present, we came up with four basic goals:

* + **Be more effective in attracting and retaining those in need of recovery, the Professional Community, AA Members and improve public perception.**
    - You would like to have more guidance in order to Improve our efforts in working with the courts, as well as improvements to our website. and our website( Our web committee is working on this.)
  + **Strengthen and unify our message-**
    - Again, you mentioned improving our website, providing guidance to our members on submitting stories to the Grapevine, and the need for additional speaker meetings.
  + **Leverage our history to become more impactful communicators**
    - You expressed a need to host Archives workshops, increase the number of speaker meetings, and the possibility of creating podcasts.
  + **Provide guidance in the use of social media and other interactive tools to more deeply engage the fellowship** 
    - You expressed a need for our General Service Office to update *AA Guidelines on Technology*, host communications and Grapevine workshops, and the need for protecting our anonymity but still carrying the message.

If you look at many of the initiatives from our General Service Board, you can see how they support the recommendations from the Communications audit. The General Service Board updated their Strategic Plan in Nov. 2019 and their goals reflect the recommendations of the audit. We, in Area 16 , have appointed an Action Planning committee to develop Action steps for our area to address your recommendations from the audit. They will be giving a progress report during the business meeting today and a final report in May.

**A few updates and requests from our Area Committees**- As mentioned early, GSO is developing a data base of all the correctional facilities where members of AA bring in an AA Meeting. Our corrections committee made this request to you at the Nov DCM Meeting. Please send this information to [corrections@aageorgia.org](mailto:corrections@aageorgia.org). They would also like you to send contact information for district/zone/group corrections reps.

Our PI/CPC Committee continues to update its data base on local district/zone/group PICPC reps. Please send info to [picpc@aageorgia.org](mailto:picpc@aageorgia.org) .

Our Treatment/Accessibilities and Grapevine Committees would like to mirror what PICPC has done so please send info to [treatment@aageorgia.org](mailto:treatment@aageorgia.org) or grapevine@aageorgia.org.

The purpose of these data files is to improve communication. We need the name and contact information of a person in your District/Zone/or group we can contact if needed and provide new information as we receive it. We also understand that communication is a “two-way street” so we would like to hear from you. Please continue to send information and questions to our Area 16 email addresses.

**Vote**

Today we will vote on the motion to add a position creating an Armed Forces and Veterans Chairperson. The Ad Hoc Committee report is in the minutes from the September Assembly.

**Ad Hoc Committee Reports**

We will also have reports from two Ad Hoc committee. One report will address the motion, “Return to eight Cluster Forms beginning in the 2021 calendar year.” The other will address the motion, “Move to electronic voting for GSSA elections.” These reports will be included in the minutes for the Area Business meeting which will be posted online under Service>Reports>Area Business Meeting Reports. They will also be available in the Georgia Message. Please share these reports with your members so they may make an informed group conscience for your vote at the May Assembly. I want to thank our trusted servants who committed their time to work on these committees and prepare the final reports and presentations.

The Conference Theme for 2020 is **A Clear Vision for you**. I can think of nothing better than a quote from p. 164 of our ‘Big Book’.

“*Clear away the wreckage of your past. Give freely of what you find and join us. We shall be with you in the Fellowship of the Spirit, and you will surely meet some of us as your trudge the Road of Happy Destiny. May God bless you and keep you…until then.”*

Thank you for the privilege of serving Area 16.

Please feel free to contact me at [delegate@aageorgia.org](mailto:delegate@aageorgia.org)