

## Introduction to this Motion Packet

This is the PDF text of Mike C's Cover Letter which accompanied this package, in addition to text contained on each of 16 'slides' for your convenience with printing

- You can click on any hyper-links (blue typeface) and be directed to the respective web pages which we reference through out these frames

**Note: Several of the Area 16 links require an ID, and Password as follows:**

**User ID: area16**

**Password: Gssa@2006**

*This information was passed on to all in attendance at the May Assembly from the Rostrum for the use of 'Our Members', statewide*

**SHOULD YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS REGARDING THIS SUBJECT MATTER, PLEASE GO TO [www.savannahaa.com](http://www.savannahaa.com)**

- **Submit your issues thru our email link at the bottom of the Home Page... we'll respond promptly**

20 July 2007

To: Area 16 District Committee Members

Greetings!

At the last Assembly, I brought a motion to the floor regarding external web-links and our State Website. Supporters of this motion have produced a package of information so that you, your GSR's, your Groups and your Meetings can have knowledgeable discussions in preparation for the vote in September. Included in this package are a CD with both a slide show presentation and text copy of each of the slides. Please feel free to make any copies you find necessary. A copy of the actual Motion Form submitted is also included.

We thought it necessary to send this package because, in our opinion, ***there was no opportunity to explain why this motion was brought forth*** during our last Assembly.

The slide show reveals why we believe linking to external, Traditions-based (i.e. "valid") District and Intergroup Websites is essential to carrying the message to the alcoholic in our technological future. With computers becoming more prominent and users becoming savvier, having links to District and Intergroup Websites simply allows another way to find a meeting or even another alcoholic.

Believe it or not, we are not the first State to have this idea. Oregon ([www.aa-oregon.org/aa\\_meetings.htm](http://www.aa-oregon.org/aa_meetings.htm)), Ohio ([www.aaneoh.org/intergroupsNEOhio.html](http://www.aaneoh.org/intergroupsNEOhio.html)), and Colorado ([www.northcoloradoaa.org/](http://www.northcoloradoaa.org/)) all have links to their respective Districts and Intergroups. These are only a few examples, but they set a precedent for allowing external links from a State AA Website.

This motion is not intended to reinvent the wheel here in Georgia. We simply believe there is a need to carry the message across the World Wide Web to the alcoholic who still suffers. Having links to Georgia's Traditions-based District and Intergroup Websites meets that need.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

In Service,

*Mike*

Mike Chambless  
Outgoing GSR, Area 16, Zone 5A  
912.656.6314

## SLIDE PRESENTATION INDEX

### Slide 1

#### **PREAMBLE**

The purpose of this presentation is to build consensus statewide in support of the District 5 Motion to activate 'Hyper-links' on our State Area 16 Web Site

Open Minded Consideration is needed to allow for an Autonomous but Unified web presence linking the Area 16 Website to Traditions-based District or Intergroup websites statewide

The recent District 5 Motion offers a Tradition Based 'SOLUTION'...**This presentation serves to clarify misunderstandings which may exist and explain 'WHY' this change is warranted at the State level**

### Slide 2

#### **The District 5 Motion to Change the GSSA Area 16 (*undocumented*) Website Policy**

Presented by Michael C, GSR, District 5 at the May 2007 Assembly

"I move that the State Website [www.aageorgia.org](http://www.aageorgia.org) , allow hyperlinks to **valid** Georgia Intergroup and District Websites."

#### **What is "VALID" ?**

- *Keeping it simple*, "valid" in our Motion means Tradition based, and representative of, any Intergroup or Area 16 District.

### Slide 3

#### **Five Considerations for Informed Decision Making**

- What are Hyper-Links?
- **THE** Background for this Motion
- Is this proposal Attraction, or Promotion?
- GSSA & GSO Documentation addressing Website Hyper-linking
- Benefits of passing this motion

## Slide 4

### Hyper-links Defined:

This is a means to navigate from a web page to another web location or file; Typically activated by clicking on a highlighted word or icon at a particular location on the screen

- **Hyperlinks are part of the foundation of the World Wide Web**

## Slide 5

### Background for this Motion

Prepared by Michael C, GSR, District 5 for presentation to the May 2007 Assembly

With the advent of the 54th Prepaid Convention in October here in Savannah, the Convention Committee has spent much time trying to coordinate registration possibilities with the State Webmaster. In discussions the State Webmaster and the Savannah Area Intergroup Webmaster, it was revealed that it was "against policy" to link external Intergroup, or District produced web sites within Area 16 on our state site. After thorough investigation, no documented "policy" was ever discovered.

## Slide 6

### ***Background Continued....***

In bringing this motion, we believe that by allowing hyperlinks to Area 16, Traditions-based Websites from the GSSA website allows us to carry the message to the alcoholic more effectively. An example would be our own District 5 Website, [www.savannahaa.com](http://www.savannahaa.com)

'The Primary Purpose' of navigating the site is to enable NEWCOMERS and VISITORS in Savannah to easily locate meetings. Our local site contains directions, maps, phone numbers and information. It ***should be linked*** from the GSSA Website. **To further support this motion *there is the precedent of a hyperlink to the Akron Intergroup web site on Ohio's 'Area 54' state site.***

## Slide 7

Is this a matter of promotion rather than attraction?.....We think NOT!

Excerpt from [FAQ about A.A. Web Sites](#), # 11

Our co-founder, Bill W., wrote:

"Public information takes many forms. the simple sign outside a meeting place that says '**A.A. meeting tonight**'; listing in local phone directories; distribution of A.A. literature; and radio and television shows using sophisticated media techniques. Whatever the form, it comes down to 'one drunk carrying the message to another drunk,' whether through personal contact or through the use of third parties and the media."

- Note that Bill says '**Meeting**'...GSSA web 'policy' **PROHIBITS posting of 'meetings'**, recognizing registered 'Groups' ONLY!
- There exist countless 'Meetings' throughout the state in locations where 'Groups' have yet to be formed...the pedigree of these gatherings matter not to the newcomer who shows up, certainly not to the A A's who regularly maintain and often NEED these 'Meetings'

## Slide 8

The only 'Official' documentation available related to Linking District, and Intergroup Websites

Sept 17, 2000\_ [GSSA Business Meeting Minutes](#) (Slide 9)

Dec 2, 2000\_ [Minority Report, a 'Dissenting Opinion'](#) (Slide 10)

- Those opposed to this motion present this report as a 'official'

Mar 16, 2004\_ [GSO Opinion on Linking](#) (Slides 11 and 12)

Jan 16, 2005\_ [GSSA Ad Hoc Report](#) (Slide 13)

Dec 22, 2006\_ [Latest Area 16 Website Update](#) (Slide 14)

## Slide 9

Sept 17, 2000\_ [Excerpt from GSSA Meeting Minutes](#)

### Web Site Creation:

A Committee had been appointed and discussed the 'feasibility study' for producing a State Website. Part of that discussion included the following language.... "Another feature could be meeting schedules showing times and locations of meetings in other areas. ***This could possibly be hyper-linked to District Web Sites being careful to use a disclaimer, etc....***

- Based upon the above; a motion was put to the Assembly, seconded, and passed to create an Area 16 Website

**This vote included the potential for 'Hyper-linking'**

## Slide 10

December 2, 2000\_ [Minority \(of One\) Report](#)

### A Dissenting Opinion

- Currently being misrepresented as the GSSA 'Position' [related to 'external websites']; The reality is that it's a single AA's seven year old OPINION
- This report objects to the VOTE WHICH PASSED to create the Area 16 State Website at the Sept 2000 Assembly
- Since it had no official impact on the vote to establish the GSSA Area 16 Website in 2000, we must question...**What does this opinion have to do with this motion on the floor in 2007 ?**
- One must navigate thru the Area 16 website to read this document as printing it requires the author's 'permission' which was not solicited

## Slide 11

March 16, 2004\_ [GSO Web Page](#)

*Excerpt from ['FAQ about A.A. Web Sites'](#)*

### 6. Q. What about linking to other sites?

A. Linking to other A.A. web sites **will often have the positive effect of significantly broadening the scope of your site.** Information contained on these sites becomes instantly available to those visiting your site. However, since each A.A. entity is autonomous and has its own group conscience, a site to which you have linked may start to display information which your group conscience finds objectionable; and there is no way to know when this might occur, or to prevent it from happening. Linking to non-A.A. sites is even more problematic. Not only are they much more likely to display non-A.A. and/or controversial material, but linking might imply endorsement, if not affiliation, regardless of the contents. In the final analysis, **experience strongly suggests that, when considering linking to another site, one must proceed with caution.**

## Slide 12

### *GSO Opinion on Linking Cont'd....*

At G.S.O. we have attempted to avoid some of these pitfalls by confining our links to known A.A. service entities, and **by incorporating a mandatory exit from our site** (including when accessing application software such as, Adobe Reader, provided to assist visitors in reading Portable Document Format (PDF) files). The mandatory exit applies even in those cases when someone wishes to activate any of the links we have included on our site. Additionally, **we post a prominent notice to that effect.**

### Slide 13

JANUARY 16, 2005\_ [AD HOC Report](#)  
from the Communications Committee

***Excerpt from Presentation to the Area 16 Assembly***

Speaks CLEARLY to the matter of Linking on the Area 16 Website per the language in this document as follows:

**“We discussed the purpose of each and some possible improvements:”..... ( *Such As it pertains to the web* )**

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

“The committee foresees the AA Georgia website as having an ever increasing role in receiving and distributing information.. This information will have to be assimilated and the **website redesigned to accommodate all the new features. In addition, as other districts uplink there own websites, which several districts have already done,** it will become necessary to unify and maintain a consistent message that stays within the traditions of AA. The ad hoc committee suggests continued study and improvement on how information is presented on the website. “

### Slide 14

December 22, 2006\_ *Latest Area 16 Website Update*

‘Site Administration’ <http://aageorgia.org/administration.htm>

■ This six page document is the only evidence of printed ‘Policy’ which we have access to on the State Domain

◆ **We can find no language in this Policy which speaks to ‘Linking’ as being prohibited**

◆ We fail to understand why all Inter-groups and Districts within Area 16 who maintain Tradition Based sites are prohibited from being linked accordingly

### Slide 15

## **Benefits of this 'Linking' Motion Passing:**

- **Furnish opportunities for 'Local Webmasters' to Interact with the State Committee**
- **Open up Service Opportunities for Tech minded A A's statewide by virtue of their 'Local Knowledge' in keeping meeting schedules, driving directions etc....updated on-line**
- **Provide for changes to be implemented in the most timely manner without the burden of navigating the State Site to find FORMS to fill out and submit every time changes occur, which in District 5 is OFTEN**
- **ALL MEETINGS get posted, not just Groups**

**In all the documented material referenced in this presentation, we find NOTHING that suggests 'Linking is Dangerous' PROVIDED that the 12 Traditions remain intact... A provision which the State Communications Committee in an 'Oversight' role could easily monitor**

**By acknowledging the POWER of the Internet; GSO has a clear understanding of it's vitality, past, present, and future, as yet another vehicle used to 'Carry the Message' ...The State should not to Discourage 'local' efforts to do so**

## Slide 16

### **INTO ACTION !**

- All DCM's in Area 16 are receiving this CD containing a web based slide show presentation, in addition to this text format of the presentation to print and 'pass it on' to groups in their respective Districts and Zones
- The findings contained in this presentation are important to insure that groups, through their GSR's Statewide, become INFORMED voters at the September Assembly when this motion comes to the floor for a vote

**We in District 5 are grateful for all who have taken their time to evaluate this material with an open mind in hopes of expanding the way we 'Carry the Message' here in Georgia**