

HIGHLIGHTS FROM A.A.W.S.

SEPTEMBER 16, 2011

The A.A. World Services Board met on September 16, 2011, at the General Service Office. Pam R., chair of the A.A.W.S. Board opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance.

Manager's Report

- The *Additional Pacific Regional Forum* took place in Woodland Hills, California, August 19th – 21st. A.A.W.S. director Rod B. was the host regional trustee and A.A.W.S. was also well-represented by Andrea B. There were 373 first-time attendees out of 723 total participants. The *West Central Regional Forum* was held in Davenport, Iowa, September 9th – 11th. Of the 292 members in attendance, 165 were first time attendees. Bill N. attended on behalf of A.A.W.S. The sharing was lively at both Forums and we heard many expressions of appreciation and an increased sense of enthusiasm for our General Services.
- The *Archives Department* welcomed Stephanie Gellis (nonalcoholic) as a part-time Archives assistant. Stephanie holds a B.A. in History from Hunter College and is currently pursuing a Master of Library and Information Science degree from Long Island University. Archives is grateful to the A.A. member who generously gifted a 2nd and 3rd printing of *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, completing our collection of printings of this book.

Services

- Management submitted a proposal for *posting Daily Reflections on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site*, with an *optional daily e-mail delivery service*. The board approved the proposal and a progress report will be brought to the October board meeting that will include the costs of email service delivery.
- The *fall 2011 issue of Box 4-5-9* included a story about the revised and currently available pamphlet "The A.A. Member – Medications and Other Drugs." The revised pamphlet is also up on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site.
- The *completed 2011 A.A. Membership Surveys* are arriving daily from the randomly selected groups. The revised "Understanding Anonymity" pamphlet was mailed to all P.I. chairs.
- *New staff member* Tracey O. has begun her rotation on the Corrections assignment, starting training as a staff member and becoming acquainted with the services provided by G.S.O. from her desk.
- The new pamphlet "*A.A. for the Alcoholic with Special Needs*" is available and has been mailed to the Area Special Needs chairs. Upload of this pamphlet to G.S.O.'s A.A. Web Site will follow shortly.

Publishing

- A.A.W.S. approved the concept of *online sales to include the following shipping charges*:

<u>Amount of Order</u>	<u>Shipping and Warehousing Charge</u>
Up to \$50	\$10
Over \$50 and up to \$249	19% of order
Over \$250 and up to \$500	16% of order
Over \$500	No charge

Note: The shipping price changes will not take effect until online ordering is implemented (estimated timeframe is *nine months to a year* from the date of this meeting).

- The committee discussed their continuing commitment to providing A.A.W.S. material in English, French and Spanish when feasible and appropriate. The committee voiced their wish to continue an *annual review of A.A.W.S. materials not available in all three languages*.
- The committee reviewed an inventory of *Publications Department unfunded projects*, and advised moving three projects forward for inclusion in the 2012 budget. These items are: ASL and CD formats for the new pamphlet “A.A. for the Alcoholic with Special Needs;” large print formats in French of the Big Book and *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*; and Conference Advisory Actions Summary Booklet (1989-2011 only) in French and Spanish.
- The committee reviewed sample *customized illustrations* for the pamphlet “Is A.A. for Me?,” for use in fledgling A.A. communities such as Haiti, Samoa, Marshall Islands and Fiji, where they have a special challenge in reaching out to alcoholics who live in nonurban settings. The committee requested that a draft policy for approval of culturally appropriate illustrations included in translations other than French and Spanish be developed for review and possible forwarding to the General Service Conference.

Finance

- The committee discussed the *2012 budget* process, and reviewed scenarios for G.S.O.’s budget and resulting Reserve Fund Projections.
- The unaudited G.S.O. seven months *financial report* (ended July 30, 2011), revealed that net sales were \$58,000, or .8% greater than budget. Contributions were \$103,700, or 2.9% less than budget. Total operating expenses were \$211,600, or 2.6% less than budget. Net income for the seven months was \$491,200, which is \$167,400 greater than budget.

Other

- A.A.W.S. reviewed planning for the mid-November launch of the Fourth Edition Big Book and *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* in *eBook format*. The board approved pricing for both eBooks at \$6.00 (in English, French and Spanish).

The App for reading the eBooks will be called the A.A. eReader. The A.A. eReader will be available at no charge from the Apple App Store, and readers will be able to purchase the book through the A.A.W.S. Online Store. Information about the eBooks will be posted on G.S.O.’s A.A. Web site starting in October, and the link to the Online Store will go live in mid-November.