

HIGHLIGHTS FROM A.A.W.S.

DECEMBER 9, 2011

The A.A. World Services Board met on December 9, 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

After an intense year of deadline commitments and anticipation, it is exhilarating to see our e-book launch! Full appreciation and recognition goes to the many who were instrumental in making delivery of e-books a reality. The next steps are to ensure the smooth operation of the system and sales, simultaneous with the development of future Apps. In January, A.A.W.S. will discuss additional device platforms and the next books to make available in e-book format.

Preparation is under way for the 2012 General Service Conference at the Hilton Westchester in Rye Brook, NY. Before Christmas, Eva S., Conference coordinator, will send out the Conference Communications Kits. We are looking forward to having the delegate Conference Committee chairs join us in January as observers at the General Service Board weekend.

The Archives Department has produced a wonderful document entitled, "Archives Preservation Guidelines," to assist local archives endeavors in the preservation of our A.A. history.

Staff

All Panel 62 delegate and alternate delegate election forms have been received. We are now in the process of placing the final touches on a "schedule/calendar" for 2012 Conference members that will be sent by email on December 1.

The Corrections desk sent an Activity Update to the committee chairs for Corrections, Hospitals and Institutions, and Bridging the Gap. The Update introduced Tracey O. as the new staff member and requested sharing from the Fellowship on new challenges and local solutions in their corrections A.A. service work for a planned revision of the survey pages in the Corrections Workbook. The desk also sent out a plea for outside members (particularly men) to participate in the Corrections Correspondence Service with inmates as there is a waiting list of A.A.s behind walls wanting to write to members outside. The Fall and Winter 2011 issues of "Sharing From Behind the Walls" are both out. In a new twist, the Fall 2011 issue included a story from a Puerto Rican correspondent in both the original Spanish and in an English translation.

Following up with a 2011 Additional Committee Consideration from the Grapevine Conference Committee, information about the A.A. Grapevine and La Viña is being inserted into general service representative kits.

The Public Information (P.I.) desk continues to be busy with projects, as work related to the 2011 Membership Survey continues and the Hispanic TV public service announcement (P.S.A.) is in the production process. Telecaster numbers for all active TV P.S.A.s in Canada have been renewed and distributed to all Canadian P.I. chairs.

More than 340 members attended the East Central Regional Forum in Miamisburg, Ohio, November 11-13. There were 193 first-timers.

Services

The committee heard a summary of the Web site redesign activity and reviewed the current Web site policy. The committee also reviewed a report from the general manager regarding progress toward posting *Daily Reflections* on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site.

Publishing

The board approved the recommendation from the Publishing committee that translation of A.A. literature may include text and images in order to better reach suffering alcoholics from widely divergent cultures and background in countries other than the United States and Canada. Translation of such literature continues to be within the purview of the Publications Department.

A.A.W.S. will be providing bar codes on books in order to help track inventory and process purchases. The Publications Department will also look into adding bar codes to A.A.W.S. pamphlets.

Big Book unit distribution for the first 11 months of 2011 was 876,637, as compared to 816,006 in the same time period in 2010, while the distribution of *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* through the end of November 2011 totaled 365,317, as compared to 337,058 through November of last year.

Finance

Approximate results indicated that net sales after eleven months were approximately \$60,000 less than budgeted. Contributions received were approximately \$143,000 less than budgeted and expenses were approximately \$600,000 less than budgeted. This results in net income for the eleven months in the \$600,000 to \$700,000 range.

New Business

Karen Hale, G.S.O.'s Manager of Administrative Services, gave a presentation on G.S.O.'s records system, Fellowship New Vision (FNV). The FNV User's Manual is in final draft and is currently being reviewed by select FNV users within the Fellowship. We plan for it to be available early in 2012.

The A.A.W.S. directors received a brief report on shared resources between the G.S.O. and the A.A. Grapevine. With the anticipated move of the Grapevine to another location in the building, an agreement is in the works for their shipping, on-site sales and mailing operations to be administered by G.S.O. on the 11th floor.

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