

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM A.A.W.S.

SEPTEMBER 7, 2012

The A.A. World Services board met on September 7, at the General Service Office. Roberta L., chair of the A.A.W.S. Board, opened the meeting.

## Manager's Report

General manager, Phyllis H., reported a number of staff changes in various departments throughout G.S.O. A notice for a G.S.O. A.A. staff opening was placed in *Box 4-5-9* and communicated to Conference members. In addition, Valerie O'Neill, longtime staff member and G.S.O. Publications Director since 2009, announced that she is retiring at the end of the year.

Attendance at the East Central Additional Regional Forum in August in Mt. Vernon, Illinois was 233 members. The Forum included presentations and workshops with a focus on carrying the A.A. message in rural communities.

The Archives Department has been busily scanning Spanish and English back issues of *Box 4-5-9* for placement on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site. The Spanish and French translations of the summer issue of *Markings* were recently completed and posted to the Web site.

The 22<sup>nd</sup> World Service Meeting (W.S.M.) is fast approaching and will take place in October in Rye, New York. We anticipate more than 60 delegates from over 30 countries or zones.

Working with professional consultants and the Pension Plan Ad Hoc Committee, A.A.W.S. is developing a Defined Contribution Plan for new employees. Starting in 2013, new hires will participate in the Defined Contribution Plan. The current Defined Benefit Plan will continue for existing employees.

## Staff

The Final Report of the 62<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference is in the hands of all Conference members! The reports are available in English, French and Spanish.

The winter issue of *Box 4-5-9* will be released in October, rather than November, this year to accommodate an article about self-support that will include information about Gratitude Month in November. The Literature Assignment sent a memo inviting A.A. groups and service committees to share the copies of *Box 4-5-9* they receive and encouraging them to use articles as a resource for discussion topics.

Staff coordinated a recent press release regarding the Library of Congress announcement naming the Big Book as one of the 88 "Books That Shaped America."

The site selection process for the 2025 International Convention hosted by the General Service Board started in August with a Bid Questionnaire, which was sent to all 93 Area delegates, asking if their areas would be interested in hosting the Convention.

Staff has begun the process of formatting the pamphlet "A.A. For the Alcoholic With Special Needs" for alcoholics who are deaf, blind or have learning challenges.

## **Services**

The committee received a report on the redesign of G.S.O.'s A.A. Web Site regarding the current initiative to build a dynamic search module, as well as a list of other aspects of the site to be updated or added.

The pamphlet "The Twelve Traditions Illustrated" is being added to the G.S.R. kit.

## **Publishing**

Gross sales through the end of August 2012 were budgeted at \$8,520,320 with actual sales of \$8,565,448. Print book units distributed for this same period totaled 1,188,565 units; non-A.A. purchases accounted for 213,543 units (18%).

The Publishing Committee continued discussion of a draft A.A.W.S. policy on types of literature which do not require consideration by the General Service Conference and literature that should receive Conference consideration, and a definition of what are 'editorial' and 'format' changes to literature.

The committee reviewed the updated list of unfunded Publications Department requests and advised moving forward the ASL translation of *Living Sober* subject to approval by the full Board of inclusion in the 2013 and 2014 budgeting process.

The committee considered a request for a 7" x 10" spiral-bound format of the abridged Big Book with blank pages at the end of each chapter for note taking, and took no action. The Publications Department will explore the feasibility of alternative formats for the Big Book to facilitate note taking.

## **Finance**

Unaudited figures for the first seven months of 2012 show that contributions from A.A. groups and members of \$3,710,194 were \$37,369 over budget. Gross profit on literature sales of \$4,694,726 was \$11,906 over budget. Total expenses of \$8,207,859 were \$14,179 over budget. Net income totaled \$197,340 compared with a seven month budgeted income of \$162,436.

## **Other Business**

The A.A.W.S. Board has agreed to forward an agenda item to the 63rd General Service Conference in April 2013 on the selling of eBooks through 3rd party vendors. Background information will be made available through the Conference agenda process.