

HIGHLIGHTS FROM A.A.W.S.

MARCH 13, 2015

The A.A. World Services Board met on Friday, March 13, 2015 at the General Service Office in New York. Chair of the A.A.W.S. Board, Bill N. opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance. An A.A.W.S. Board resolution was presented to Joe Dennon (retiring after 28 years of employment at G.S.O.), in recognition for his work at G.S.O. as staff assistant and service to the Board as past secretary

Manager's Report

General Manager Phyllis H., reported that the General Service Office has been a hub of activity with the multitude of reports and final preparations for the General Service Conference; and applauded Mary C. for an outstanding job in guiding the work of agendas and background to completion by deadline! Conference members now have in hand all background in either hard copy or discs (or both) and can view them on the General Service Conference Dashboard.

Planning continues for the 2015 International Convention. We currently have over 36,000 registrants with over 90% of whom registered on-line. We are working on the Advance Program with information about the Convention and a tentative list of A.A. and Al-Anon meetings that will be sent to all registered attendees. Those who have requested email correspondence will receive it electronically. Once available, the Advance Program will be posted on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site.

Adrienne B. (recently-retired Staff member) has returned to G.S.O. on a part-time basis, assisting with the overflow of work on the Service Assignments. Recruitment for an additional G.S.O. staff member has been posted in the latest box 459 issue with a deadline for applications by May 1, 2015.

Planning for the late summer/early fall 2015 construction of the co-location of the G.S.O. and Grapevine offices on the 11th floor of 475 Riverside Drive, continues to progress. Four construction companies are preparing to submit bid proposals which are due the week of March 23, 2015.

Staff

The Corrections desk at G.S.O. is in the process of preparing the first update this year with exciting news and a copy of the new service piece on "Engaging A.A. Members in Corrections Work." The Corrections desk will also be introducing the joint effort of A.A. Grapevine, Inc. and the Corrections desk to address the unmet request for Grapevine and La Viña subscriptions.

From February 20-22, 2015, Bob W. (U.S. Trustee-at-Large) and G.S.O. Staff, Rick W. attended a celebration in Yokohama, Japan marking the 40th anniversary of the first Japanese-speaking meeting in that country. Bob and Rick made brief presentations on their roles at the opening ceremony to an enthusiastic crowd of over 2,000 attendees. Bob also made a Cooperation with the Professional Community (C.P.C.) presentation during a symposium on Saturday.

Technology/Communication/Services

The A.A.W.S. Board approved the following recommendations brought forth by the Technology/Communication/Services Committee ("TCS"):

1. That the three titles currently produced in audio format in English, French and Spanish, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, and the pamphlet "A.A. for the Alcoholic with Special Needs," be made available via audio streaming from G.S.O.'s A.A. website.
2. That notice of the 2016 opening for nonalcoholic trustees be placed on aa.org to coincide with the first publication of the announcement in the summer 2015/Conference *Box 4-5-9* newsletter.

Publishing

For the first month of 2015, sales are substantially below the estimate. In January, gross sales (including digital books) were \$1,116,216 vs. the budgeted amount of \$1,255,254 (an 11% negative variance). January sales were about 6% higher than last year's total of \$1,051,148.

Unit sales in all major print book categories (e.g., *Alcoholics Anonymous* and *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*) were lower than budget and lower than last year.

Total ebook sales were \$28,084, with 7,001 units sold. Big Books account for 2,071 units, *Twelve and Twelve* 2,017, and *Daily Reflections* sold 1,105.

Progress on the Navajo translation of *Alcoholics Anonymous* continues; and it is anticipated that the draft translation (in audio format) may be completed no sooner than the fourth quarter of 2015.

The ASL translation of *Alcoholics Anonymous* and *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* is progressing with project completion projected for late 2015.

Finance

Unaudited G.S.O. financial update for the one month ended January 31, 2015:

Net sales	\$1,095,998
Gross Profit (Literature)	\$ 887,636
Contributions	\$ 625,886
Total operating expenses	\$1,117,504

The A.A.W.S. Board approved the following **recommendations** brought forward by the Finance Committee:

1. That a transfer to the General Service Board General Fund of \$2,827,106.68 to cover the 2014 General Fund deficit from operations and \$132,026 to cover the funding of La Viña be approved.
2. That a transfer to the General Service Board Reserve Fund of \$1,200,000 representing excess Working Capital needs be approved; with the understanding that as funds may be needed for Construction, they will be withdrawn from the Reserve Fund.

Other

The A.A.W.S. Board considered two items forwarded from the Trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference: 1) Request to ask the General Service Office to investigate the possibility of holding the General Service Conference on the West Coast every other year; and 2) Request the General Service Office management whenever possible, select a site outside of NYC in which to hold the General Service Conference. After a full discussion, the A.A.W.S. Board voted unanimously to take no action on the requests since both fall outside A.A.W.S.'s jurisdiction and require Conference Action. The A.A.W.S. Board will forward both requests to the Trustees' Committee.

###