

HIGHLIGHTS FROM A.A.W.S.

OCTOBER 26, 2012

The A.A. World Services board met on October 26, at the Hilton Rye Town Hotel in Rye Brook, NY. Roberta L., chair of the A.A.W.S. Board, opened the meeting.

Manager's Report

General manager, Phyllis H., reported that the 22nd World Service Meeting (WSM) took place October 21-25, 2012 in Rye, New York, just prior to the board meeting. We welcomed over 60 delegates from over 30 countries and international entities, such as French-speaking/German-speaking Europe.

G.S.O.'s Archives received two valuable donations at the 16th annual A.A. Archives Workshop which was held in Cocoa Beach, Florida in October. An original Poverello Medal Certificates by the College of Steubenville, Ohio, awarded to the A.A. Fellowship in 1949 and a First Edition, First Printing Big Book.

Longtime staff member, Warren S., retired on November 1, and Valerie O'N., Publications Director, will be leaving at the end of the year. We wish both of them well in their retirements!

The Pacific Regional Forum, held in Fairbanks, Alaska on September 14-16, attracted 197 attendees of whom 102 were attending their first Forum.

The 27th Intergroup/Central Office/A.A.W.S./A.A.G.V. Seminar was held in Washington, DC September 27-30, with 134 attendees from approximately 65 local offices. This event gave us an opportunity to communicate about various topics, including on line sales and the accompanying pricing structure.

Staff

The Fall 2012 issue of *About A.A.* (our newsletter for professionals) was mailed, made available for digital delivery, and is posted to the website at www.aa.org. This issue features an article about the 2011 A.A. Membership Survey, Frequently Asked Questions about Anonymity, the A.A. Big Book's being included in a U.S. Library of Congress exhibit celebrating "Books That Shaped America," and information about revisions to the pamphlets, "A.A. and the Armed Services" and "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell".

Corrections Staff attended the 22nd Annual Bridging the Gap (BTG) Workshop Weekend and participated in a rich mix of discussions on difficulties and solutions in this vital Twelfth Step activity which links A.A. members getting out of an institution with local A.A. members who can help with the transition to A.A. on the "outside."

Several additions to G.S.O.'s A.A. Web Site were noted, including issues of *Box 4-5-9* in English, French and Spanish back to 1990 (additional decades will be added in the coming months); hyperlinked lists for service committee kits and resources for G.S.R.s and D.C.M.s; and a country-by-country list of international G.S.O.s, local intergroups/central offices, and answering services.

The pamphlet "The Twelve Traditions Illustrated" has been added to the G.S.R. kit.

Services

The board approved G.S.O.'s A.A. Web Site Quarterly Report (July – September 2012) and forwarded it to the trustees' Public Information Committee.

At their October meeting last year, the A.A.W.S. Services Committee requested that the I.O.W.C. begin to compile additional suggested revisions to the Web site policy based on current Web site initiatives. This review has been completed, and the A.A.W.S. board approved a revised Web site policy for G.S.O.'s AA Web site.

Publishing

Gross sales through the end of September 2012 were budgeted \$9,694,080 at with actual sales of \$9,553,120, approximately 1.5% less than budget. Print book units distributed for this same period totaled 1,329,000 units; non-A.A. purchases accounted for 244,920 units (18.4%).

A.A.W.S. finalized a policy on types of literature published by A.A.W.S. which do not require consideration by the General Service Conference and literature that should receive Conference consideration and forwarded it to the General Service Board.

The committee considered production of a pocket-size edition of the booklet, *Living Sober* and took no action, noting that this was the first request for such an item.

The committee received an update on the progress toward preparing the A.A.W.S. Catalog for Online Sales. Committee members received a report on the progress and funding for the ongoing translation of the Big Book into Navajo in an audio format.

Finance

Unaudited financial statements for the nine month period ended September 30, 2012 were presented. It was noted that for the nine months, revenues were .2 percent less than budgeted but 1.2 percent greater than last year, while operating expenses were 1.8 percent less than budgeted and 3.25 percent greater than last year. (Revenues consist of gross profit from literature sales, contributions, and interest earned on operating cash balances.)

Other

The board reviewed and discussed a drafted Fair Use Policy which was submitted by the Intellectual Property ("IP") Committee. The IP committee will revise the Fair Use Policy to reflect suggested changes and send a draft to the board for approval.

The board discussed the pending changes to the retirement benefit plans for G.S.O. employees. Starting January 1, 2013, new employees will be eligible for a defined contribution plan. Current employees will continue to be covered under the current defined benefit plan.

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