

HIGHLIGHTS FROM A.A.W.S.

SEPTEMBER 13, 2013

The A.A. World Services Board met on Friday, September 13, 2013, at the General Service Office in New York, NY. Chair of the A.A.W.S. Board, J. Gary L. opened the meeting and warmly welcomed visiting A.A. Grapevine Board director, Andrew Ware, and all in attendance.

Manager's Report

With summer ending, G.S.O. moves into a busy fall schedule as we wrap up a wide variety of projects and begin to plan forward for 2014.

G.S.O. staff, and A.A.W.S. director Bill N., traveled to West Virginia for the Additional Southeast Regional Forum, which was held August 16-18, 2013. Almost half of the participants were first-time Forum attendees, making it a time of gratitude, sharing and loving A.A. Fellowship.

AAWS director Joe D. and G.S.O. staff attended the West Central Regional Forum in Bloomington, Minnesota, held September 6-8, 2013. One of the high points of the Forum was the number of enthusiastic A.A. members with special needs who participated, including members who were deaf, blind or lived with other disabilities. It was an important reminder of how vital publishing A.A. literature and materials in formats accessible to alcoholics with special needs is in carrying the message of A.A. for those already in A.A., and for those yet to come.

One of the outreach efforts this month was the Cooperation With the Professional Community (C.P.C.) visit to Washington, D.C. for the Recovery Month Planning Partners Meeting, which was held September 2-4, 2013.

G.S.O. New A.A. Staff Search

Selected from a large applicant pool, six candidates were scheduled for interviews through the end of September; a selection will be made by mid-October. The new staff member will step into the Corrections assignment when Eva S. rotates onto the 2015 International Convention desk in January 2014.

Staff

The 2013 General Service Conference Inventory Report was posted on the Conference dashboard in July. The 63rd General Service *Conference Final Report* was delivered in August.

Services

A well-received calendar feature was added to the *Daily Reflections* page on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site, allowing users to go back and forth by day and select a specific date.

Publishing

Total gross sales for the first eight months through August 2013 are \$8,774,270, which is \$166,380 (1.93%) over estimate for the period, and ahead of last year's gross sales at this time by \$172,818.

A.A.W.S. recommended that the price of e-book versions of A.A.W.S. literature be kept below their print version equivalents.

A.A.W.S. also recommended that a soft-cover, abridged, large-print edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous* be produced in early 2014.

Finance

For the seven months ended July 31, 2013, contributions from A.A. groups and members of \$3,845,796 were \$57,700 over budget. Gross profit on literature sales of \$4,801,540 was \$281,400 over budget. Total operating expenses of \$8,883,998 were \$16,400 over budget. Net loss totaled \$236,347, compared with a seven month budgeted loss of \$557,888.

Other

In response to the trustees' Conference Committee's request that A.A.W.S. "consider an electronic voting system to be utilized on all nonelection votes at Conference and report back on the financial feasibility of an electronic voting system to the trustees' Conference Committee," the board reviewed options and agreed to forward their suggestions and concerns to the trustees' Conference Committee for their consideration.