

HIGHLIGHTS FROM A.A.W.S.

JULY 31, 2014

The A.A. World Services Board met on Thursday, July 31, 2014, at the General Service Office in New York, NY. Chair of the A.A.W.S. Board, Billy N. opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance, including guests Class A Trustee Terry Bedient, General Service Board Chair, Class A Trustee David Morris, General Service Board Treasurer, and Pacific Regional Trustee, Joel C.

Manager's Report

General Manager Phyllis H., reported that this year's Employee Recognition Ceremony was held on June 10th – A.A.'s 79th "birthday." The meeting opened with a reading from the Big Book, followed by the formal ceremony wherein employees were acknowledged for their service with the General Service Office and its mission of supporting carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the still-suffering alcoholic. Celebrants included two employees celebrating 35 years and two celebrating 30 years of employment with GSO – we are truly thankful for the "long timers" and other employees for their dedication and many contributions.

Records – The newly published directory of General Service Offices, Central Offices, and Answering Services Overseas has been printed and distributed.

Archives - The recently revised Archives video, Markings on the Journey is now available for distribution. It made its "debut" showing at the Pacific Region Forum early June and was a big hit! 2An announcement about its availability was recently sent to all local Area and District Archivists and Archives committee chairs; members of the General Service Conference and Grapevine staff.

Staff

The Summer Box 4-5-9 Conference issue was posted on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site. Later in July, the full 2014 Conference Inventory Report will be distributed to Conference members; all Conference members will also be sent the 64th General Service Conference Evaluation Summary via email. The Final Conference Report will be distributed within the next few weeks.

Planning for the 65th General Service Conference, April 19-25, 2015, is underway. The theme of the 2015 General Service Conference is: "Celebrating 80 Years of Recovery, Unity and Service – The Foundation for Our Future."

The Corrections desk continues to receive ten to thirty letters, or more, daily. A large percentage of those requests are for participation in our Corrections Correspondence Service. In the first six months of 2014, we linked 444 male alcoholics and 206 female alcoholics through our Corrections Correspondence Service.

Planning continues for the World Service Meeting this October in Warsaw, Poland. Service entities from Czech Republic and Hong Kong were approved to participate in the World Service Meeting for the first time. Currently, we have 38 countries attending represented by 60 delegates.

Announcements for two Regional Trustees (Northeast and Southwest) and one Trustee-at-Large (Canada) to replace General Service Board members rotating off the Board following the 2015 Conference were sent in June and accompanied by an announcement in Box 4-5-9's spring edition. Resumes of candidates will be accepted from area delegates until January 1, 2015.

The Pacific Regional Forum was held in Boise, Idaho July 11-13, 2014. (This marked the 120th Forum covered by Staff Assistant, Ivy Rivera!) According to the final count, we had 532 members in attendance (305 were first-time Forum attendees). We had 36 Spanish-speaking members and were pleased to be able to provide first-rate interpretation services for them

The Loners-Internationalists Meeting (LIM) information sheet (SM F-123) is now included in the Special Needs-Accessibilities Kit and is being provided to members who tour G.S.O. From the more than 150 Homers, Loners, and Internationalists, very few were sending in shares for the bi-monthly, confidential bulletin published and circulated by G.S.O. The members have responded well to an email notification of the need and timeline for sending in shares for upcoming issues. A number of Homers have shared that they are unable to write with their hands but can type so they were glad to learn that shares could be sent in electronically.

Technology/Communication/Services

The Board approved the Technology/Communications/Services (“TCS”) Committee’s recommendation that the 2014 Second Quarter Report on G.S.O.’s A.A. Web Site Activities be forwarded to the trustees’ Public Information Committee.

The TCS Committee heard a report from the General Manager on a trial production of an in-house Web video. The Board approved the TCS Committee’s recommendation to move forward with G.S.O.’s production of in-house, Web-only videos.

Publishing

Sales – For the first six months, through June 2014, total gross sales are \$8,306,100, which is \$598,000 (7.7%) over estimate for the year to date. The month of June saw \$1,115,469 actual sales vs. the \$1,005,900 estimate, which is \$109,569 over budget (10.89%).

Digital Publishing Program – Our digital book publishing program, i.e., eBook sales, for the first half of 2014 has been increasingly strong as we publish more titles, in English, Spanish and French.

The Board approved the following two recommendations brought forward by the Publishing Committee:

- That the current 19% shipping and handling charges for purchases from \$51 to \$250 be lowered to 15% at the time of the upcoming 2014 literature price increase.
- That the current 16% shipping and handling charges for purchases from \$251 to \$500 be lowered to 12% at the time of the upcoming 2014 literature price increase.

Update on Navajo Translation of *Alcoholics Anonymous* – We have received numerous inquiries about the status of the translation into the Navajo language of the Big Book. The Publishing Department reports that the translator and translation service have been moving forward on this project for the past several months after receiving approval of a sample translation. They informed the office in early August that it will be at least a year from now before the Navajo translation of the Big Book is completed.

Finance

The unaudited G.S.O. financial update for the period January 1, 2014 – June 30, 2014 reflected:

(All Figures in Thousands)

Net sales	\$8,171
Gross Profit (Literature)	\$4,946
Contributions	\$3,220
Total operating expenses	\$7,541
Net Income	\$ 627

It was noted that for the six month period ending June 30, 2014, revenues were approximately \$178,000 (2.3%) greater than budget while total operating expenses were \$407,600 (5%) under budget. (Significant income items this year were the sales of the 75th anniversary edition, the third party eBooks, and the decline in the cost of the Conference by approximately \$150,000 having held the Conference outside of Manhattan.) Contributions were \$23,717 or .7% less than budget and total operating expenses were \$407,623 or 5.1% less than budget. Net profit for the six months was \$627,616 compared with a budgeted profit of \$41,946 and a six month 2013 loss of \$416,817. Absent the sales of the 75th Anniversary Edition in 2014, the 2014 results would have been approximately the same as in 2013.

The Board approved the recommendation brought forward by the Finance Committee to approve the literature price increases as set forth (reflecting the price of the hard cover Big Book at \$9.50), effective October 1, 2014 (along with the aforementioned reduced shipping and handling charges).

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