

A.A.W.S. HIGHLIGHTS

January 31, 2008

General Manager, Greg M., shared that everyone at G.S.O. was deeply grateful to each A.A.W.S. Director for the sacrifices they made in 2007.

Greg reported that two guests from the Central Mexicana A.A. Service Structure, Daniel N., General Manager of the G.S.O. of Mexico; and Elvido Q., Regional Trustee of the Southern Territories, were with us for the Board weekend and will return to the office early the following week for meetings with Management about G.S.O. operations.

Former G.S.O. General Manager Bob P. passed away on January 1, 2008, a few days short of his 91st birthday. Greg was fortunate to be present for services honoring Bob's life and work. Bob was G.S.O. General Manager during 1974-1984, after which he continued as President, A.A.W.S., Inc., followed by his service as Senior Advisor until 1987.

Earlier in the day, this Board's Finance Committee reviewed results for 2007. Net literature sales were 6% better than budget and voluntary contributions by A.A. Groups and members were strong, 5% ahead of budget. Operating expenses were restrained to a total of 2% below budget, resulting in unaudited net income of \$1,032,392, and \$942,000 more than budgeted. A preliminary review of Group participation in 2007 suggests that the number of groups able to send contributions to the General Service Board remains at virtually the same level as in 2006.

Greg said he hoped that each Director would take time to visit G.S.O. Archives to view new displays. The Stepping Stones Foundation has donated a full-scale photograph of the old Rand-McNally World Map that used to be in A.A. headquarters.

With the solid leadership of Archivist Amy Filiatreau, the department accomplished a great deal in 2007 on preserving and processing of our backlog. Archives personnel are completing 2007 projects:

- * General Service Board minutes: We have scanned all minutes from 1938 to the present. We now have to provide index information for the earliest minutes and perform quality control on the scans.
- * Nell Wing collection: We are finishing the processing of Nell's files.

Services

Conference – Planning for the 58th General Service Conference continues. The Communications Kit containing preliminary information was sent to all Conference members at the end of December.

Cooperation With the Professional Community – The Fall 2007 issue of *About A.A.* has been published and mailed. This issue included articles on: the alcoholism training program that pairs first-year residents with A.A. members, new trustee Judge Rogelio Flores and pamphlets targeted to specific groups of people such as young people, African Americans and women.

Corrections – At year's end, we still had 52 male inmates waiting to be linked to an outside A.A. member. The first couple of weeks in January have resulted in many male outside A.A. members responding to an article in the Holiday 2007 issue of *Box 4-5-9*.

Group Services – Mailings were sent to all Central and Intergroup Offices in the U.S. and Canada advising them of the publication and scheduled distribution of the Third Edition Big Book in Spanish, *Alcohólicos Anónimos*, in February 2008.

International – The First West Central Africa Service Meeting was celebrated in Paris, France, during November 29–December 4, 2007. This historic event was hosted by the French General Service Board in partnership with the U.S./Canada Board and gathered delegates from several French-speaking African countries. The country reports and sharing reflected a wide range of A.A. experience and growth in the zone. The next West Central Africa Service Meeting is scheduled for 2009 in the Republic of Cameroon.

On November 29, 2007, Trustee-at-Large, Dorothy W. and General Manager, Greg M., traveled to Warsaw, Poland to participate in a Concepts Workshop with members of the Polish General Service Board and service structure. The weekend activity provided an opportunity to share A.A. experience in the development and application of the 12 Concepts, and to answer the many questions now arising for the fast growing A.A. Fellowship in Poland.

Literature – The February/March 2008 issue of *Box 459* will feature an article on the history of the Spanish Big Book and process of development of the Third Edition. Each Spanish language Central and Intergroup Office in the U.S. and Canada will receive a complimentary case (20 books).

Special Needs – A Special Needs Assignment Update was mailed to 39 Area Special Needs Accessibilities (SN/A) Committee chairs, 127 district and other Special Needs Accessibilities (SN/A) chairs and all Conference members. Formats of recovery material are being reviewed to encourage prioritizing American Sign Language (ASL) material in accessible formats, e.g., DVD Big Book and 12x12.

Public Information – P.I. projects: As of December 31, 2007, four valid video submissions were received for the A.A. Videos for Young People's Project. A statistician is currently compiling the results of the 2007 A.A. Membership Survey. We have learned that our 2007 P.S.A. is getting air-time on CNN, en español. All P.I. projects will be addressed at the trustees' P.I. Committee meetings in February.

Regional Forums/International Convention – Registration information has been posted online for the two Regional Forums being held in the first half of this year; the other two will be posted six months out. We also received a request for a Local Forum from the International Conference of Young People in A.A. (I.C.Y.P.A.A.).

Sixteen delegate areas expressed interest in hosting the 2020 International Convention, and a Convention and Visitors' Bureau questionnaire was sent to the corresponding cities. The deadline for submission of the 2020 Site was January 10. We received completed bids from seven of the cities, six cities declined because they felt they did not meet the minimum city criteria or had a conflict of dates, and three cities did not respond.

Loners-Internationalists Meeting (LIM) – The long-awaited LIM Directory is now available. The confidential directory was mailed to approximately 700 LIM participants at the end of December. The Fellowship New Vision data storage system currently in use at the office now allows for this directory to be created in-house at a sizeable savings.

A.A.W.S. Services Committee – The Board approved the Fourth Quarter and Annual Web Site Activity Reports, as recommended by the Services Committee, and these were forwarded to the trustee's Committee on Public Information.

The A.A.W.S. Finance Committee recommended the 2008 A.A.W.S. budget, which was approved by the Board and forwarded to the trustees' Finance & Budgetary Committee.

Publications – Total distribution of all books in 2007 was 2,105,628, up 8% from the same period in 2006, when 1,951,938 units were distributed. In 2007, total A.A. purchases amounted to 1,697,035 units, while non-A.A.s accounted for 408,593 units, or 19%. For the year 2007, 1,127,310 Big Book units (all Editions) were distributed, compared with 1,067,191 during the same period in 2006.

The following conversions of existing audio or video A.A. publications to CD or DVD format are available: CD Format *Alcoholics Anonymous*; *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*; *Living Sober*; DVD Format *Markings on the Journey*; *Bill Discusses the Twelve Traditions*; *Bill's Own Story*; *Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous*.

The A.A.W.S. Publishing Committee reviewed a request to require areas to secure written permission to reproduce and/or alter the Final Reports of the General Service Conference for anonymity purposes before posting on Web sites. The committee noted that the Conference Final Report is a "confidential" report per the 1975 Advisory Action and agreed to discuss, at its June 2008 meeting, the possibility of publishing—in the future—a condensed, anonymity-protected version of the General Service Conference Final Report which could be posted on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web Site. The committee also requested that G.S.O. Staff prepare a comprehensive paper reflecting shared experience on electronic posting of published reports, documents, etc., adapted to protect anonymity and provide pertinent information on obtaining permission to reprint A.A. publications.