

A.A.W.S. HIGHLIGHTS

June 8, 2007

General Manager, Greg M., stated that the Directors and G.S.O. employees look forward to Howard L.'s leadership as Chairperson of A.A. World Services, Inc. (A.A.W.S.). The Board welcomed Trustee-at-Large/U.S., Dorothy W., and General Service Trustee, John S., who are starting service on the A.A.W.S. Board and who participated in the New Directors' Orientation the previous day

Greg shared that Sunday, June 10, marks 72 years since our Co-Founder Dr. Bob S. struggled to regain sobriety that he first discovered the previous Mother's Day during a chance meeting with Bill W. All present joined Greg in a moment of silent gratitude to reflect on the lives changed by the A.A. way of life.

Good news! Fellowship New Vision (FNV) was activated in G.S.O. on May 9 and made available for access by 93 Area record-keepers on May 19. The in-house rollout of the program was quite successful. Feedback from internal and external users directed to the programmer and project team highlighted minor processing flaws that required small adjustments. These fixes were addressed within 24–48 hours of receipt. We look forward to even smoother functions as the project team and programmer adjust the program for better process flow.

The microfiche preservation project is progressing as planned. Following the A.A.W.S. Board's direction expressed during the January 25 meeting, the Project Management Office (PMO) addressed preservation of A.A. Group histories and records by establishing a computer system for that purpose. Group histories are currently stored on paper, microfiche and electronically within the Minolta DocXnet system that is failing and cannot be upgraded. Progress to date includes:

- Server hardware purchased/installed at Invision, the datacenter that serves G.S.O.
- Laserfiche electronic document management software installed and initial document repository created.
- We expect to have Laserfiche desktop software installed on the Archives Department's computers in late June, and available to selected Files Department users.
- We chose a respected vendor, Conversion Technologies International (CTI), to begin migration of the Group records in the Minolta DocXNet system. Once Minolta platters are delivered to CTI, completion will be achieved in about four weeks.
- When CTI forwards images and index information to us, we will upload it onto Laserfiche; and begin the process of determining specifically which of the remaining Group records on microfiche will require conversion.

Preliminary reports from the Publications Department for May indicate that sales continue to be ahead of projections. Voluntary contributions for the first two weeks of May are strong and seem to indicate increased participation by A.A. members and Groups.

Services

Conference – The process of editing and finalizing the 57th General Service Conference Final Report is progressing. The Final Report should be available in August.

Corrections – An activity update was mailed this month to corrections committee chairs of area, district, intergroup/central offices, Hospital and Institutions (H&I) and Bridging the Gap (BTG) committees and others. This mailing included: highlights of the 2007 General Service Conference pertaining to Corrections; an announcement on the revised "A.A. in Prison: Inmate to Inmate"; the need by the Corrections Correspondence Service (C.C.S.) for additional A.A. male letter writers on the "outside" (there are 43 male inmates on a waiting list); and the July 2007 A.A. Grapevine staple-free "Prison" issue. International – In May, Greg and Doug R. attended the 3rd Sub-Saharan Africa Service Meeting in Windhoek, Namibia. There were 22 delegates from 11 countries in attendance, as well as three observers from Great Britain's service structure – the co-sponsor of this event along with the U.S./Canada structure. Topics discussed included translations and copyrights, the

need for literature, self-support, carrying the message to professionals, anonymity and country-to-country communication.

Greg and Doug also visited with members of the Intergroup Office in Nairobi, Kenya. They visited the Ministry of Health and met with the Deputy Minister and two treatment professionals. Doug had the distinct pleasure of attending an A.A. meeting in a Kenyan prison and met with correctional officers.

Public Information (P.I.) – In May, an activity update was mailed to area P.I. Committee chairs with highlights of the 2007 General Service Conference recommendations regarding Public Information. The update included a list of proposed TV stations to receive the new Public Service Announcement (P.S.A.), “A Force of Nature,” as part of the Centralized Distribution and Tracking plan. Each area decides whether to have the P.S.A.s centrally distributed or can suggest changes to the list of proposed TV stations.

Regional Forums – The Special U.S. Virgin Islands Forum was held May 5-6 in St. Thomas and there were 102 attendees. Presenters were from Area 15 (Southern Florida), St. Croix, St. Maarten and St. Thomas. A.A. members from Antigua could not attend but sent a thoughtful presentation that will be included in the Final Forum Report. On June 1-3, the Northeast Regional Forum was held in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where over 50% of the 524 attendees were experiencing their very first Regional Forum.

The A.A.W.S. Services Committee reviewed G.S.O.’s A.A. Web Site activity data for April and May 2007, minutes of the Intra-Office Web Site Committee (IOWC) meetings held on April 17 and May 10, 2007, and the May Web site activity logs. The committee recommended that the IOWC be authorized to add to the Web site any Conference-approved pamphlet designated as “Service” or “Unity” pamphlets without the need for further approval by the A.A.W.S. Services Committee or Board. At each Services Committee meeting, the IOWC will provide a list of pamphlets not currently posted on the Web site and the status of its review with respect thereto. The motion to approve this recommendation was passed by the Board.

The committee recommended that the First Quarter 2007 Web Site Activity Report be approved and forwarded to the trustees’ Committee on Public Information and that feedback be requested on the additions to the current format. This was approved by the Board.

The A.A.W.S. Publishing Committee accepted the Publications Report, as presented by Publications Director, Chris C. The committee discussed ways to encourage existing “qualified” customers to open online ordering accounts. Suggestions included providing information about online ordering in presentations at Regional Forums and the annual Central Office/Intergroup Seminars, and on a business reply card to be inserted into all orders processed by A.A.W.S.

The A.A.W.S. Finance Committee received an unaudited summary of income and expenses for the four months ended April 30, 2007, from Controller, Don Meurer. The committee reviewed the report of the 2007 Conference Committee on Finance (C.F.C.), and noted that—following the Conference Committee’s review of the agenda items concerning volume discounts and shipping charges, the C.F.C. stated in its additional committee considerations that it agreed with the current A.A.W.S. policies.

Publications – Total distribution of all books through the month of April 2007 was 724,608, up 9% from the same period in 2006, when 664,184 units were distributed. Through April 2007, total A.A. purchases amounted to 604,063 units, while non-A.A.s accounted for 120,545 units, or 16%. Through April 2007, we distributed 391,258 Big Book units (all editions), compared to 358,642 during the same period in 2006. In April, gross sales were budgeted at \$1,104,000. Actual sales, unaudited, came in at \$1,061,399, or 4% under budget. In the same period of 2006, gross sales amounted to \$1,006,432.

Other Subjects – The Board reviewed a proposed Budget Policy and Procedure Statement for A.A.W.S., Inc., and approved this policy.

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