

# A.A.W.S. HIGHLIGHTS

## December 14, 2007

General Manager, Greg M., noted that we are in the season of reflection on the gifts granted to each of us by our Higher Power through the A.A. way of life and he invited each person present to join together for a moment of silence centered on A.A. members who began sobriety during the year.

In early December, Records Department personnel prepared information update sheets for U.S./Canada areas that do not utilize Fellowship New Vision (FNV). A report for areas participating in FNV was exported on December 3 so that each such Area can prepare Group Information Updates.

Records Department personnel are also preparing for the new Area Registrars/Record Keepers who will begin service January 1, 2008. Each member of the Department will be responsible for assisting at least 5 new Registrars with FNV processing procedures so that every new Registrar becomes familiar with the system. Additionally, information update sheets for U.S./Canada areas that do not utilize FNV have been completed.

Transfers of Group Histories A-C and N-Z from DocXnet optical discs to Laserfiche (digital document repository) have been accomplished. We have not been able to develop a simple, cost effective solution for scanning and transferring the remaining histories (D-M) from Microfiche. Currently, we are evaluating an alternative in-house solution that would involve utilizing existing personnel and/or hiring part-time workers.

It was reported that net sales of literature through October 2007 were 7.5% ahead of budget; and, early indications were that November sales would also be ahead of projections. We are especially grateful that voluntary contributions from A.A. members and groups continue to be above budget; these were up 5% through October. While November contributions detail has not been finalized, it appears that voluntary contributions will be above those received in the same time period in 2006.

### Services

Conference – We continue to prepare for the 58<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference. The first mailing to Conference members, the Communications Kit, will be sent to arrive by January 1, 2008, and committee secretaries will be sending welcome letters to the members of their committees.

Cooperation With the Professional Community – Mary D. and Greg M. represented A.A. at the annual “Day of Sharing,” hosted this year by the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD). Medical students from Cornell University continue to visit the office as part of a second-year course called “Public Health and Community Medicine.” Mary hosts four Cornell students a month through February 2008.

Corrections – In late October, each area chair of a correctional facility, H & I, and Bridging the Gap Committee (140 total) received a complimentary copy of the DVD, “A.A. in Correctional Facilities,” along with their copy of the Activity Update that was sent to all area, district and other chairs giving news about the DVD and ordering information. In November, each member of the General Service Conference received a complimentary copy and a request for any thoughts they may have about how to use this DVD in contacts with corrections professionals. So far, the response from the Fellowship has been overwhelmingly positive, upon viewing the DVD – but we still have not heard from professionals.

In November, a Corrections Activity Special Update was sent with news that the first edition of the book *A.A. in Prison: Inmate to Inmate* is being made available at no charge, one case per area committee at a time.

A.A. volunteers who take meetings into correctional facilities are eagerly awaiting the impending posting of *Sharing From Behind the Walls* in the Services for Members/Communication by Service Activity section of G.S.O.'s A.A. Web Site. Ready access to this piece by volunteers other than committee chairs has long been sought, and this electronic posting will benefit all involved including easy access by volunteers, more widespread distribution to inmates, and reduced distribution costs.

Group Services – Mary Clare L. has been answering some interesting questions from Intergroups regarding the amount of funds that can be kept in a prudent reserve, the running of board meetings and the owning of real property. She participated in a workshop at the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual National/International Native American Indian Alcoholics Anonymous Convention in Billings, Montana. Nearly 500 Native American A.A.s. attended this Convention.

International – In November, the staff member on the International Desk, Julio E., attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Convention of A.A. in Malta, where close to 200 A.A. members from the region and from Malta joined to celebrate sobriety. The venue also presented an opportunity to review existing A.A. literature in Maltese and to take steps toward the printing of the Big Book in Maltese. Also, in November, Julio joined Trustee-at-Large, Jo-Anne L., in Muscat, Oman, where they were invited to participate in the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Gulf Convention of A.A. The gathering of A.A.s from several countries in the Persian Gulf region provided a venue for sharing experience, strength and hope, energizing the local A.A. groups. Several committees and members remain active in the areas of translation of A.A. literature into Arabic and in sharing information about A.A. with professionals in these countries.

Public Information – November 30, 2007 marked the deadline for several projects on the P.I. Desk: for data entry of the thousands of questionnaires from the 2007 Membership Survey, for receiving video submissions from young people in the Fellowship, and for receiving area delegate bid forms for hosting the 2020 International Convention. Please note that video submissions for the A.A. Videos for Young People project are being accepted after the deadline.

Regional Forums – The two most recent Forums broke attendance records in their regions. In Denver at the Southwest Regional Forum, 803 enthusiastic members joined together for a wonderful October weekend of sharing. In Arlington Heights, Illinois, just outside of Chicago, 563 active A.A.s gathered for the East Central Regional Forum in November.

Treatment Facilities – Filming of the revised *Hope* video began at the end of October. A “rough-cut” version is scheduled to be prepared for viewing at the February 3, 2008 meeting of trustees’ Committee on TF.

Loners-Internationalists Meeting (*LIM*): A new format for our Loners, Internationalist, and Homers Directory is in its final stage of development and will be produced in-house at a savings. Perhaps, more exciting than the cost-saving feature will be our ability to produce and distribute the newly formatted directory more often – which is now possible using information imported from FNV.

The [A.A.W.S. Services Committee](#) recommended the following action items, which were approved by the full Board: (a) That A.A.W.S. Inc.'s Policy on G.S.O.'s Web Site, in the form presented to this meeting, be approved; (b) That the Composition, Scope and Procedure of the Intra Office Web Site Committee, in the form presented to this meeting, be approved; and (c) That the 3rd Quarter 2007 Web Site Report, in the form presented to this meeting, be approved and forwarded to the Trustees’ Committee on Public Information.

Publications – Total distribution of all books through November 2007 was 1,986,645, up 11.5% from the same period in 2006, when 1,781,601 units were distributed. Through November 2007, total A.A. purchases amounted to 1,580,460 units, while non A.A.s accounted for 388,185 units, or 19.5% of the total. Through November 2007, 1,056,327 Big Book units (all Editions) were distributed, compared with 961,857 during the same period in 2006. In October and November 2007, gross sales were budgeted at \$2,041,200. Actual sales, unaudited, were \$2,237,487, or 9.6% over budget. During the same period in 2006, gross sales amounted to \$2,014,333.