

A.A.W.S. HIGHLIGHTS

October 26, 2007

General Manager, Greg M., reported that November is recognized as "Gratitude Month" by many A.A. groups in the U.S. [in Canada, it's in October]. To celebrate the essence of gratitude, Bill W. encouraged A.A. groups to make special contributions to the General Service Board each November – contributions that are essential to A.A.'s growth and purpose to reach each suffering alcoholic here and across the oceans.

The 22nd Annual Intergroup/Central Office Seminar, held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, during October 4-7, attracted over 170 workers serving front-line offices in the U.S. and Canada. Fifty-one workers were attending their first Seminar. The attendees included employees of offices located in large metropolitan areas, as well as volunteers who serve small or remote communities. Seminar workshops covered vital topics such as prudent reserves, accounting, Web sites, e-mail etiquette, volunteers, insurance, databases and how to best apply A.A. Traditions. The 23rd Seminar will take place in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, September 25-28, 2008; and, the 2009 Seminar will be held in Rochester, New York.

The Southwest Regional Forum in Denver, Colorado, attracted more than 800 members for a weekend of workshops, sharing sessions and valuable presentations. There were many questions on topics concerning the welfare, unity and growth of A.A.

Our Records Department continues to process group updates/changes submitted in hardcopy, and via the Fellowship New Vision (FNV) database. Regional Directories have been distributed. Proofing of Overseas and Domestic Intergroup/Central Office Directories is underway, with the publication dates pending.

The Loners-Internationalists-Homers (LIM) Directory will be replaced with a report prepared by FNV. When completed, the LIM report will be sent to applicable members. The change from Directory to Report will permit frequent, accurate updates for new LIM members.

Julio and Greg participated in the 14th European Service Meeting, October 19-21, in Frankfurt, Germany. They welcomed opportunities to share with 41 Delegates about the value of strong home groups, and emphasized Public Information service. Julio gave the Keynote address, and Greg shared closing remarks.

All documents formerly located in the obsolete Doc-X-Net system are now available in Laserfiche. Archivist Amy Filiatreau is working with three vendors to develop a plan for conversion of Microfiche. Those vendors have sample fiche to determine an efficient method of conversion to legible digital documents. The project is on budget and continues on target for completion by year-end. We currently have more than 100,000 pages of archival records in the Laserfiche program, and Archives' personnel are adding documents daily. The software allows word-search of a vast number of records with a single keystroke. When the search objective is located, personnel can cut, paste, print, e-mail and easily utilize the records. Archives' employees use the program consistently and are now able to complete a research request rapidly and efficiently.

Services

International – In early September our Trustees-at-Large, Dorothy W. and Jo-Anne L., traveled to Mongolia for the First General Service Conference of the Mongolian A.A. service structure. At

this historical event, Dorothy and Jo-Anne shared experience related to the U.S./Canada General Service Conference and General Service Office.

Both Trustees-at-Large also attended the Fifteenth Meeting of the Americas (REDELA) in São Paulo, Brazil, during October 17-21. Delegates from the A.A. service structures in North America, Central America and South America met to share their experience, strength and hope on carrying the message of A.A. in their countries.

Literature – The staff member on the Literature Assignment works with the Publications Department involving editors, writers, artists, etc., and a team of G.S.O. staff to discuss and review articles for future *Box 459* issues. The current October/November *Box 459* is a terrific example of this collaborative effort. It contains 15 articles on a wide variety of topics and range of A.A. experience – Hebrew Big Book, Anonymity, Q. & A. on Anonymity online, Local Forums, Spanish literature workshop, A.A. Guidelines, “Gratitude Month,” an A.A. meeting in a head trauma facility, LIM, the Corrections Correspondence Service and more! The featured article is on young people staying sober.

Public Information – The 2007 TV PSA, “A Force of Nature,” is being centrally distributed to French TV stations in Canada. The A.A. Videos for Young People Project is in full swing and submitters may now register online and upload their videos.

Regional Forums – There were 476 people in attendance at the West Central Regional Forum in Omaha, Nebraska in September. Information about Local Forums, including the request form, was posted on G.S.O.’s A.A. Web Site in September.

International Convention – Delegate bid questionnaires were sent to all areas, asking if they would be interested in hosting the 2020 International Convention and would be willing to provide a host committee of 3,000 to 4,000 volunteers.

Treatment Facilities – Warren attended the annual *Bridging the Gap* Workshop in White River Junction, Vermont, during September 14-16. The event brought together area and district BTG chairs from as far away as California and as close as New Hampshire. In all, more than 60 enthusiastic A.A.s were in attendance. Sharing sessions centered on ways to improve doing this very important Twelfth Step work. The event also featured a panel discussion led by a professional in the treatment field.

The **A.A.W.S. Publishing Committee** recommended the following pricings, which were approved by the full Board: Videos/Films: *Young People in A.A.*, *Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous*, *Bill’s Own Story* and *Bill Discusses the Twelve Traditions* in DVD format were priced at \$10.00 each. Audio: *Bill Discusses the Twelve Traditions*, *Three Legacies by Bill*, and *Voices of Our Co-founders* in CD format were priced at \$6.00 each. The CD *Pioneers of A.A.* was priced at \$8.50.

Publications – Total distribution of all books through September 2007 was 1,597,662, up 10% from the same period in 2006, when 1,456,209 units were distributed. Year-to-date 2007 total A.A. purchases amounted to 1,285,038 units, while non-A.A.s accounted for 302,624 units, or 19% of the total. Through September 2007, 855,332 Big Book units (all Editions) were distributed, compared to 790,534 during the same period in 2006. In September, gross sales were budgeted at \$867,760. Actual sales, unaudited, were \$939,989, or 8% over budget. During the same period of 2006, gross sales amounted to \$938,104.