

A.A.W.S. HIGHLIGHTS

September 10, 2010

Chair, George M., opened the meeting with a moment of silence.

G.S.O. General Manager, Phyllis H., reported **Employee and Position Changes**: As a result of an internal promotional recruitment for the new position, **Director of Staff Services**, she was pleased to announce the appointment of Doug R. effective October 1, 2010. Since June of 1996 when he came to GSO, Doug has served on nine GSO assignments, most recently, again, as Staff Coordinator. Doug's primary responsibility will be the oversight and management of the ten G.S.O A.A. Staff members and coordination of services that support this division. Among his other managerial duties, Doug will continue as Assistant Secretary to the General Service Board providing support in coordinating the quarterly General Service Board meetings.

The duties of Staff Coordinator have been carefully reviewed and due to the critical nature of the principal responsibilities, it was determined to retain this position with additional assignment of web services and a title change to **Staff Coordinator/Web Services**. We are most happy to have Rick W. assume this position on October 1, 2010. Rick will function as the G.S.O. Website Liaison and sit on both the Interoffice Website Committee (IOWC) and the G.S.O. E Technology Team. In addition, he will become a director on A.A. World Services, Inc., and serve as Liaison to the Intergroups and Central Offices.

As we near the ending of our third quarter, we continue to look closely at our **finances and budget** to ensure our expenditures offset an earlier decline of literature sales. At the end of August, we see a slight decrease in sales from the previous month. We are deeply grateful for the increased amount and consistency of our 7th Tradition contributions, particularly during, as Bill W. describes, "lean times".

The **Conference** desk reports that initial preparations for the 61st General Service Conference are underway. The annual letter was sent to all conference members in August to gather suggestions for the 2012 theme, presentations and workshop topics, in addition to the election form requesting updated information from those areas where elections are being held for Panel 61 delegates and other officers. The first results of an area election (Area 27, Louisiana) were received at the end of August.

The **Corrections** assignment updated the A.A. Guidelines for Corrections Committees with additional language regarding how A.A. members cooperate with the rules of local facilities, and a new section on Pre-release/Bridging the Gap/Temporary contacts. Additional language regarding cooperation with facility regulations and how A.A. committee might prepare members new to this Twelfth Step work will be in the next printing of the Corrections

Workbook. The Corrections Desk is also seeking local shared experience about how Corrections Committees resolve perceived conflicts between facility regulations, and what A.A. does not do, particularly regarding facility regulations that involve legally binding paperwork. Please email the Corrections Desk at corrections@aa.org to pass along local experience, so that others may benefit from shared experience.

The trustee's **Literature Committee** formed the following three subcommittees to address recommendations approved at the 2010 General Service Conference: Subcommittee on the Development of Literature Which Focuses on Spirituality; Subcommittee on the pamphlet "The A.A. Member-Medications and Other Drugs" and a Subcommittee on the pamphlet "A.A. and the Armed Services."

The **Pacific Regional Forum** was held August 27-29, 2010 in Torrance, California and just prior to this, on August 22, 2010, a Local Forum for Area 08's Hispanic Districts was held in the San Diego, California.

The **AAWS Ad Hoc E-Technology Committee** met and viewed and discussed a presentation on e-book distribution possibilities. Delegate areas are sending in the e-technology questionnaires; the deadline for receipt of these is October 15.

Roberta L., chair of the **AAWS Ad Hoc Committee on Copyrights**, reported on the committee's July, 30, 2010 meeting to finalize its Scope and Procedure and develop a list of additional materials needed in order to consider current policies related to A.A. trademarks and copyrights and for the development of possible future policies. The chair obtained background from the GSO Intellectual Property Administrator regarding the work she does for the office that included sample permission requests, sample response letters and examples of the final disposition of the requests that will be reviewed at the committee's December 2010 meeting.

Highlights of the **Publications Report** included the following activity: Total distribution of all books for the 8 months ending August 31, 2010 was 1,152,762 units down 573,222 units or 33% from the distribution of units in the same period in 2009, 1,725,984. The eight-month total of A.A. purchases amounted to 974,862 units, while non-A.A.s purchases accounted for 177,900 units or 18% of total units distributed through the end of August. In 2009, non-A.A. purchases represented 30.6% of total units distributed as the result of large non-A.A. orders received prior to the July 1, 2009 price increase. In both 2007 and 2008, non-A.A. purchases represented 19% of total units distributed. Through August 2010, we distributed 592,718 Big Book units compared to 982,349 units in the same period in 2009, Gross sales for July and August were \$1,087,286 and \$1,012,664, respectively. Gross sales for the eight month period ending August 31, 2010 were budgeted at \$9,711,130. Actual sales, unaudited, came in at \$8,458,302 which is \$1,252,828 or 12.89% under budget. In the same period in 2009, gross sales amounted to \$10,213,929. We are continuing our extensive inventory of the status of documentation for licenses and U.S. copyright registration for translations of A.A.W.S. copyrighted material published either by A.A.W.S. or by 50 countries with General Service Boards. Research into supporting data and possible implementation continue to be priorities in considering AA's entry into the world of e-publishing.