

HIGHLIGHTS FROM A.A.W.S.

JULY, 2011

The A.A. World Services Board met on July 28, 2011, at the General Service Office. Pam R., chair of the A.A.W.S. Board opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance.

Manager's Report

- General manager, Phyllis H., offered special congratulations to Joe Moglia (nonalcoholic) in the Mail/Shipping Department who recently celebrated *45 years of service* with G.S.O. He not only hits the high mark for longevity in the office but is the only current employee who was on staff with Bill W.!
- G.S.O. *staff rotation* took place July 11. *New staff member* Tracey O. will begin on the Corrections Assignment in August.
- G.S.O.'s current *computer servers* are nearing the end of their useful lives. We are preparing for a new hosting arrangement that will provide a more robust, scalable and highly reliable environment, and that will be more than capable of accommodating our upcoming online eBook initiatives.
- Proofing and editing of the *A.A. Regional Directories* is almost complete; projected distribution to the Fellowship is mid September.
- The Archives staff recently completed the conversion of thousands of its *digital files to a TIFF file format* - a stable, widely adopted uncompressed file format, recommended by the National Archives and Records Administration of the U.S. (NARA). Using this format, along with some additional changes to our electronic files, will help us secure the long-term performance, management and preservation of our digital library.

Services

- The summer edition of "*Sharing from Behind the Walls*" is now available. This bulletin contains excerpts of correspondence from A.A.'s who are incarcerated and is a tool to help carry the A.A. message in correctional facilities.
- A.A.W.S. recently requested an unauthorized source to stop posting *Daily Reflections* online without permission and to refrain from emailing daily excerpts to subscribers because this infringed on the copyright of this book, and they have complied. G.S.O. subsequently received over 800 emails and calls from users of this service protesting the A.A.W.S. action. A number of these emails indicated that GSO might post this book and provide the service they received from the web site. A.A.W.S. is considering this.
- The 2011 A.A. Membership Survey packets were mailed to delegates who are facilitating their distribution to the randomly selected groups in their respective areas.

- The new pamphlet, titled “A.A. *for the Alcoholic with Special Needs*” will be available sometime this fall, and the revised pamphlet “*The A.A. Member—Medications and Other Drugs*”, approved by the 2011 Conference is expected in August 2011.

Publishing

- For the first six months of 2011, A.A.W.S. distributed 904,368 pieces of A.A. literature. This compares to 864,161 for the first six months of 2010, a 4.7% increase. Gross profit on literature was \$127,000 ahead of budget.
- The *eBook versions* of the Fourth Edition Big Book and *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* will be available for purchase on G.S.O.’s online store in English, French and Spanish in November 2011. These eBooks will be readable in a free App for the iPhone and iPad. EReader Apps that will allow readers to view these books on other devices are planned to be available shortly after the initial rollout.
- The *revised Catalog* of Conference-Approved Literature and Other Service Material will be distributed with the Summer issue of *Box 4-5-9*. For the first time, the catalog will include *items from the A.A. Grapevine*.
- A.A.W.S. approved the Publishing Committee recommendation that the quarterly issues of the “Markings” Archives Newsletter be translated into French and Spanish at a cost of \$8,000 per year.
- The Low German Fourth Edition Big Book was priced at \$7.60.

Other

- The A.A.W.S. board received a Copyright and Reprint Report presenting an overview of policies, practices and information. Preparation of the report included compiling lists of copyright and reprint requests and responses, as well as inventorying the status of copyright on major A.A.W.S. works. This report will be valuable as the board reviews intellectual property questions and considers fair use of A.A.W.S. copyrighted material.

Finance

- As a result of a project approved by the 2011 General Service Conference, the A.A.W.S. Board approved a *mid-year 2011 budget adjustment* totaling \$40,000, representing the budget for the Spanish TV PSA.
- For the first six months of 2011, *contributions* from A.A. groups and members of \$2,985,250 were \$21,470 under budget. Gross profit on *literature sales* of \$4,098,742 was \$127,079 over budget. Total *expenses* of \$6,659,635 were \$312,321 under budget. *Net income* totaled \$424,712.