

Highlights From A.A.W.S.

July 26, 2012

The A.A. World Services board met on July 26, at the General Service Office. Roberta L., chair of the A.A.W.S. Board, opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance, especially Andrew W., newly elected West Central Regional Trustee who was observing the meeting.

Manager's Report

General Manager Phyllis H. reported that the Eastern Canada Regional Forum took place in July in St. Catharines, Ontario with a registration of 544 enthusiastic AA members!

The International assignment continues preparation for the World Service Meeting (W.S.M.) and we are anticipating the participation of 65 delegates from 37 countries and A.A. entities such as Central America (Northern and Southern Zones) and German-speaking Europe.

Phyllis conveyed the sad news that Dennis Manders had passed away. Dennis, a nonalcoholic, was hired to work in the finance department at G.S.O. in 1950. He worked many years with Bill W. and was serving as chief financial officer when he retired in 1985.

Staff

The summer issue of *Box 4-5-9* was devoted to the General Service Conference, as is the practice each year. Look for the Fall issue to include information about: the Big Book being included in the Library of Congress Exhibit of "88 Books That Shaped America;" the beginning of a three-part series regarding the A.A. Home Group; information about "mis"understanding anonymity; information about the 2011 A.A. Membership Survey; and other items of potential interest to the members of the many thousands A.A. groups to which it is mailed.

A recent polling of intergroup/central offices has made it possible to update our list of Other Language Meetings in the U.S./Canada. Contact information for local entities that report having such meetings in their local community is available upon request.

Services

The Services Committee presented the Quarterly Report of Web site activity for second quarter. The Board approved the report and forwarded it to the trustees' Committee on Public Information. Information about the ongoing redesign of G.S.O.'s A.A. Web Site will be automatically included in future quarterly reports.

A.A.W.S. discussed the issue of disclaimer breaks related to security seals that link to security vendors from portions of G.S.O.'s Web site. Because it is not possible to insert disclaimer breaks before these seals are displayed, A.A.W.S. agreed to placement of disclaimer text next to the links. These changes will be included in the Web Site Policy after the complete review and updating that is currently taking place.

The A.A.W.S. Services Committee continued its discussion regarding a request that "a searchable A.A. meeting locator covering the entire Conference structure (United States and Canada) be created and maintained on the A.A. Web site" and took no action. A.A.W.S. noted that at this time providing accurate information is best handled locally, and that the General Service Office continually strives to improve how its Web site assists visitors with contacting local A.A.

Publishing

It was announced that the 2011 Membership Survey Pamphlet is now available in print and on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web Site.

A.A.W.S. received a report on International Publishing that noted there are currently 67 Big Book translations with 14 new translations pending. A.A.W.S. has published 235 titles (books, booklets, pamphlets, service pieces) in 44 languages. Forty-five countries are licensed by A.A.W.S. to produce 1,512 publications in a variety of formats in 44 languages.

Gross sales through the end of June 2012 were budgeted at \$6,532,480 with actual sales of \$6,506,884. Print book units distributed for this same period totaled 902,237 units; non-A.A. purchases accounting for 160,992 units (17.8%). Since December 9, 2011, we have sold 3,492 Big Books and 3,071 *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* in eBook format.

The committee discussed a draft of an A.A.W.S. policy on types of literature which do not require consideration by the General Service Conference and literature that should receive Conference consideration, and defining what are "editorial" and "format" changes to literature. The committee agreed to continue its discussion at the September meeting.

Finance

A.A.W.S. made a mid-year budget adjustment that adds the \$40,000 estimated cost for distribution and tracking of the new Spanish-language public service announcement "Tengo Esperanza", in keeping with the 2012 Conference Advisory Action.

Unaudited figures for the first six months of 2012 show that contributions from A.A. groups and members of \$3,105,695 were \$5,145 under budget. Gross profit on literature sales of \$4,065,288 was \$46,961 over budget. Total expenses of \$6,981,665 were \$52 under budget. Net income totaled \$189,556 compared with a six month budget of \$41,700.

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