

# A.A.W.S. HIGHLIGHTS

**December 11, 2009**

John K., Chair, extended a warm welcome to everyone attending the December meeting of the A.A. World Services (A.A.W.S.) Board of Directors.

Phyllis H. reported **the end of the G.S.O. construction project**, on budget and on time. Everyone at G.S.O. is now benefiting from the improved lighting and new ceiling.

In the last days of October, G.S.O. was the unfortunate recipient of **a random, virus-related intrusion** that seriously impacted computer operations and servers. Essential services were put in place that allowed a minimal functioning level while assessment and restoration occurred. The office system is now back to normal with no loss to our GSO records or data.

On Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, G.S.O. and Grapevine employees and retirees gathered for their annual **holiday luncheon**. Eighteen employees were recognized with an accumulated total of 150 years of service at the G.S.O. in 2009 – a notable mark of retention! Through the many challenges of the year, we were all grateful for a time of laughter and festivity.

Approaching the **New Year**, much focus is on planning budgets and projects that will ensure vital A.A. services continue and enhancements made that will move us forward. With the upcoming **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of A.A. International Convention** and the **21<sup>st</sup> World Service** meeting in Mexico, it will be quite a year! Remember, our new venue for the 2010 Quarterly Board meetings and General Service Conference will be in **Rye Brook, NY**.

The **first 60<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference planning meeting** for G.S.O. and Grapevine staff was held November 3<sup>rd</sup>. The **Conference Communications Kits** will be sent to Conference members by January 1, 2010 and committee secretaries will send welcome letters to committee members.

The **About A.A. newsletter** for professionals highlighting spirituality in A.A. was mailed. Also mailed, the new single compilation DVD of the **three C.P.C. videos** addressed to healthcare, human resources and corrections professionals, and the **new service piece** "Alcoholics Anonymous as a Resource for Drug & Alcohol Court Professionals".

The G.S.O. Corrections desk needs volunteers for the **Corrections Correspondence Service**. In particular, we need **Spanish-speaking males** who live outside the Pacific Region. Western Pennsylvania, after being inspired by a recent Grapevine letter about an inmate who was **corresponding with an entire A.A. group**, is trying to gather groups of volunteers for similar efforts.

Submissions of experience, strength and hope are being sought for a revision of the pamphlet **"It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell."** Stories can be sent directly to the Corrections desk. Local CF committees are also being asked to share experience with the signing of legally binding documents as part of their cooperation with corrections professionals. Local solutions regarding how to observe facility regulations while staying within our Traditions can also be sent directly to the Corrections desk.

Warren attended the French-speaking African Service Meeting held in **Cameroon** November 22-25. In addition, this past November, he flew to **Mexico City** with John K. to prepare for the 2010 World Service Meeting next October.

Planning continues for the **International Convention** next year. We are in the process of inviting speakers for the over 200 meetings that will take place over the weekend.

A gentle reminder of the **January 1, 2010 deadline** was sent to Pacific and Eastern Canada delegates who have not yet submitted **resumes for Regional Trustee** to succeed trustees Madeleine P. and the late Denis V.

The East Central Regional Forum was held November 13-15 in **Kalamazoo, MI**. A mailing regarding scheduled **2013 Forums** in specific regions went out to appropriate area delegates. At the 2010 General Service Conference Regional Lunches, delegates of a region will decide where the 2013 Forum will be held based on bids presented from areas in the Region.

All area Treatment Facilities Committee (H&I and BTG) chairs received a complimentary copy of the revised video **Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous**.

The TF Activity Update contained another **clarification** of the change in name of the staff assignment and the Conference and trustees' Committees - *both* Treatment Facilities *and* Special Needs Committees are **still separate service entities** in the Fellowship, but with a common place at the General Service Office, at the General Service Board Committee meetings, and at the General Service Conference.

Per the request of the trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities: (1) the Treatment Facilities, H&I and BTG committees were asked to share any experience that they may have had with carrying the A.A. message to treatment professionals and clients in **outpatient settings**; and (2) the Special Needs committees were asked to share any suggestions regarding developing **a poster depicting alcoholics with special needs**, such as suggestions as to what such a poster might include, as well as if and how they might use such a poster if it could be developed.

Highlights of the **Publications Report**: Total distribution of all books through November 2009 was 2,082,399 units up 5.9% from the same period in 2008 of 1,966,203 units. Through November, total A.A. purchases amounted to 1,582,229 units, while non-A.A.s accounted for 500,170 units, or 24% of total units distributed to date. In 2008, non-A.A. purchases represented 19% of total units distributed. Big Book Sales (All Editions) – Through November 2009, we distributed 1,158,883 units compared to 1,033,924 in the same period in 2008. Gross Sales – October and November gross sales were budgeted at \$1,993,260. Actual sales, unaudited, came in at \$1,723,120, which is \$270,140 or 11.6% under budget. In the same period in 2008, gross sales amounted to \$2,125,589. 2009 budgeted gross sales are \$13,900,000. YTD gross sales are \$12,808,210. Operations – We processed 3,230 pay orders and 941 complimentary orders in October and November. There were 251 online large-purchaser orders in October and November. Production Update – An attractive flyer with an order form and information about new products and formats was mailed November 25 in the Holiday Issue of *Box 4-5-9*. The flyer and the highly-anticipated “Young People’s Video” DVD, with an explanation of revised credits in one segment of the video were mailed to all Conference members on December 7.