

A.A.W.S. HIGHLIGHTS

September 18, 2009

Chairman, John K., welcomed everyone attending the September meeting of the A.A. World Services (A.A.W.S.) Board of Directors.

On August 13, a letter was sent to Conference members with the news that effective August 17, 2009, Chris C. and the General Service Office ended a relationship of more than six years in an amicable fashion. We acknowledge Chris's many work contributions during his tenure in Publications and wish him well in his future endeavors. In the same letter, it was announced that **Valerie O. was appointed to the position of Publications Director** effective August 17, 2009. Valerie has been with the G.S.O. since September 1990 working on a number of Staff assignments and brings solid management, budgeting and film production experience from her "pre-G.S.O." life, as well as a wealth of A.A. knowledge from her years on Staff. With Valerie vacating the International desk, Warren S. moved from PI to the International desk. Mary Clare L. moved from her CPC assignment to the PI desk.

Following a thorough and diligent interview and evaluation process for **A.A. Staff vacancies**, we all acknowledged how fortunate we were to have such exceptional candidates. We are delighted to welcome as new Staff members, Jim M. and Mary C. **Jim's first day** was September 1 and his assignment is Corrections. **Mary** begins her first day on October 5th on CPC. Past staff member, Susan U. filled in on Corrections until Jim M. came on board and has moved to CPC until Mary C. arrives.

On September 15, employees gathered together for the **GSO Employee Meeting** to hear department and management reports and to receive an update on the status of salary increases which remains on hold.

A memo was sent to Conference members informing them of **our current construction project** involving **lease-required** work including expansion of the Archives and the addition of an employee break room. The Archives will be closed to all visitors and researchers for the next few weeks until work is completed.

Our "**contributions online**" project is on schedule with final testing and revisions to our "going live" date the end of April 2010. Plans now are to have a complete review by the A.A.W.S. Board at our October meeting, a showing to the General Service Board in January, and to members of the 2010 Conference.

We are thrilled with the response of the Fellowship to opening of the **2010 International Convention** registration. Within a week, over 11,000 folks had registered. Despite recent rumors, hotels and housing are still available to registrants and rooms are being added as we move along. Look for updates on our website for latest information on this and other Convention news.

A letter was sent from the **Nominating assignment** to the 51 Class A trustee candidates whose resumes we currently have on file. This letter outlined the time commitment required of Class A trustees and asked for a response to indicate current interest with a deadline of September 7, 2009.

The **PI desk** reports that the trustees' P.I. Committee is currently accepting resumes for a non-trustee Appointed Committee Member (ACM) position. The deadline is December 30, 2009. The P.I. desk continues to receive questions and complaints about the use and possible **misuse of A.A. trademarks and copyrights on social networking web sites**, in addition to questions about A.A. Traditions on these sites (**predominantly regarding anonymity**).

By the time this report is presented, the West Central **Regional Forum** will have taken place September 11-13. On the agenda, we included a **First Timers Orientation** on Friday before the Opening Session. This is new to the agenda and gives us a wonderful opportunity to welcome first time Forum attendees.

Saturday, September 19, Area 49 Southeast New York had a **Spanish Local Forum**. Class A trustee, Rogelio Flores, was present as well as A.A.W.S. Director, Bill N. Final preparations are being made for the upcoming **Southwest Regional Forum** that will be held October 9-11, 2009 in Dallas, Texas.

At the request of the **trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities**, a letter was sent to all General Service Conference Members and Special Needs Committee chairs in the U.S. and Canada requesting submission of stories from A.A. members with various special needs. This is the first step in a process begun by the 2009 General Service Conference Advisory Action "that a Special Needs recovery pamphlet for newcomers or prospective members be developed and that stories be solicited from members with various special needs, for example, members who are deaf, blind, wheel-chair bound, etc." Anyone who knows of such members is encouraged to let them know of this project and, if necessary, help them submit their stories.

The A.A.W.S. Board approved the **A.A.W.S. Services Committee's** recommendation that "Website Policy" be amended to read, "Oversight of the Website shall be the responsibility of the A.A.W.S. Board of Directors, acting through its Services Committee **and in accordance with the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous**" (language change in boldface italics).

The **A.A.W.S. Publishing Committee** recommended that the A.A.W.S. Board approve a loan in the amount of U.S. \$3,500 to the General Service Board of South Africa to reprint the existing translation of the Big Book in Afrikaans. The General Service Office in the U.S./Canada will coordinate the terms of the loan with the South African General Service Board. The A.A.W.S. Board approved this recommendation.

A meeting request from Cocaine Anonymous with our Board and G.S.O. was reviewed. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss C.A.'s copyright and book distribution. Our subsequent meeting resulted in a mutual agreement on copyright issues while meeting their literature needs as well as furthering knowledge and good will between our Fellowships.

Publications reported that total distribution of all books through August 2009 was 1,734,512 units up 20.1% from the same period in 2008, 1,443,985. Through August, total A.A. purchases amounted to 1,274,681 units while non-A.A.s accounted for 459,831 units, or 26.5% (This percentage remains higher than normal owing to a large order received from Hazelden prior to the July 1 price increase). Through August, we distributed 986,195 units compared to 758,580 in the same period in 2008. August gross sales were budgeted at \$1,043,890. Actual sales, un-audited, came in at \$703,049 which is \$340,841 or 30.6% under budget. In the same period in 2008, gross sales amounted to \$1,059,556. We processed 1,687 pay orders and 404 complimentary orders in August. Our Mail & Shipping Department reports a savings of \$2,170 from April 22 through August 31 by networking with World Net, a company that provides shipping services in conjunction with the Post Office to get better rates.

Finance The A.A.W.S. Board had a thorough discussion on available pension plan funding options, and subsequently both the A.A.W.S. Board and the A.A. Grapevine Board agreed to the most favorable alternative. Don Meurer reported that through the month of August, Sales are \$252,500 over budget following the high sales in June before the price increase in July. Contributions are \$297,000 under budget noting that there were only two out of the reported eight months that contributions exceeded budget. In total, net revenue is under budget by \$44,500.