

HIGHLIGHTS FROM A.A.W.S.

JANUARY 31, 2013

The A.A. World Services board met on January 31, at the General Service Office in New York, NY. Roberta L., chair of the A.A.W.S. Board, opened the meeting.

Manager's Report

General manager Phyllis H. reported that G.S.O. ended the year 2012 with a net profit slightly over budget. This was in spite of the unanticipated expenses, including costs incurred by Hurricane Sandy.

In 2012, G.S.O. greeted 1,584 visitors. Archives finished up 2012 with approximately 1,555 requests for information and research. The Archives Department's goals for 2013 include adding new exhibits to the online Digital Exhibit; updating data on the A.A. Timeline; scanning Early Group Records (1940s – 1950s); and building an inventory, at the item level, of the Archives Print and Negative Collection.

There are several changes in personnel to report. G.S.O. officially welcomed Greg T. who joined us on January 2 as our new Publishing Director. Gayle S. R. has announced that she will be retiring in February. In the next two months, G.S.O. will be welcoming two new A.A. staff members: Clay R., a past Area 59 Eastern Pennsylvania delegate, will join the staff in February; Steve S., a resident of Minneapolis and the manager of the Minneapolis Intergroup, will start work in March.

The 2013 listings of domestic and overseas central offices, intergroups and answering services were recently published.

Staff

This is an exciting and extremely busy time as we prepare for the 63rd General Service Conference. In January, Conference committee chairpersons, as well as the Delegate Chair for the 2013 General Service Conference, participated in an orientation session and had the opportunity to observe trustees' committee meetings over the General Service Board weekend.

In response to a request from an area, and in keeping with G.S.O.'s ongoing effort to improve communication with district trusted servants, DCMCs will now be included in DCM mailings.

We are in the early stages of preparing for the next Regional Forum, which is the Northeast, June 7-9, in Cromwell, Connecticut.

The spring 2013 issue of *Box 4-5-9* will contain an article on anonymity that includes a section on posthumous anonymity – including what our co-founders had to say about their own anonymity. There will also be some wonderful sharing from World Service Meeting delegates who had to stay longer than planned in New York because of Hurricane Sandy.

Services

A.A.W.S. recommended that the "Quarterly Report (Oct.-Dec. 2012) Summary of G.S.O.'s A.A. Web Site Activities," the "Annual Report: 2012 Summary of G.S.O.'s A.A.

Web Site Activities” and the memo providing statistical information about monthly and annual visits to G.S.O.’s A.A. Web Site be forwarded to the trustees’ Committee on Public Information.

A.A.W.S. also recommended that the existing literature catalog (with prices) and order forms be made available on the Web site as part of the effort to clarify how to order A.A. literature.

Publishing

Gross print sales through December 31, 2012 were \$12,620,075 (budgeted at \$13,000,000). Print book units distributed through December 31, 2012 totaled 1,738,857. Since December 9, 2011, 5,118 Big Books and 4,553 *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* in eBook format have been sold.

A.A.W.S. forwarded to the 2013 General Service Conference the proposal that in April 2014, coinciding with the anniversary of its publication, A.A.W.S. publish a commemorative edition of the First Edition of Alcoholics Anonymous (the Big Book) that is faithful in production specifications to the original First Edition – and clearly marked as the “75th Anniversary Edition” of the 1939 book on the facsimile dust jacket. The book will be offered for sale for a limited period of time, from April 2014 through the 2015 International Convention Period.

Finance

An unaudited G.S.O. financial update for 2012 was presented. Net sales were \$12,364,759; gross profit was \$7,877,928; contributions were \$6,656,608. Total operating expenses were \$14,283,552, leaving a net profit for the year of \$160,450.

A.A.W.S. approved the 2013 budget of the General Service Office, showing a net loss of \$611,240, and forwarded it to the trustees’ Finance and Budgetary Committee with its recommendation for acceptance.

Other

A.A.W.S. agreed to send the request to share confidential membership contact information (specifically G.S.O.’s database) to the General Service Board for additional consideration regarding legal implications of sharing this information with another corporation (including A.A. Grapevine, Inc.).

Management was asked to resolve questions of use and ownership with the vendor contracted to take the panoramic photograph at A.A.’s International Conventions.

At the December meeting, A.A.W.S. had agreed to ask the General Service Conference to consider the request from A.A.W.S. for permission to use commissioned online stores to sell and distribute digital A.A. literature. In February, the board agreed that the eBook agenda item most closely fits the scope of the Conference Committee on Public Information and accordingly, agreed that the agenda item be submitted to the trustees’ Committee on Public Information for their review before it was passed on to the Conference committee.

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