

HIGHLIGHTS FROM A.A.W.S.

DECEMBER 7, 2012

The A.A. World Services board met on December 7, 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 following Hurricane Sandy, our emergency disaster plan went into action to assure employee communication and safety and maintain essential operations. Although property damages were common, we were thankful there were no personal injuries. While the G.S.O. office was officially closed during the week of the storm, Staff and employees who reside in New York City stood by and supported the office.

G.S.O.'s Archives revised Oral Histories Kit is available for distribution. The winter issue of Markings is scheduled to be released for distribution in early December. Archives received two new treasures for the repository: a box of materials belonging to August B., a Panel 3 delegate from the Wisconsin area; and a recent recording of Tommie D., who was a past delegate from the Connecticut area in the 1960s. Tommie shared wonderful memories about Bill, Lois, Ebby and the early days.

The Web site Redesign project has been placed on hold until 2013 budget is set.

Phyllis announced that Greg T. has been hired as the new Publications Director. Greg, a past general service trustee, will begin after the start of the new year.

Staff

Work on the 63rd General Service Conference is gearing up. Panel 63 delegates were randomly selected for the 2013 Conference Committees; random selection of Conference members for the fifteen Conference Inventory Groups was also conducted. The 2013 Conference Communications Kit being prepared, and is scheduled to be mailed to Conference members in December.

The Corrections staff member sent the winter 2012 issue of "Sharing from Behind the Walls" to print with a holiday message and several shares about how A.A. members have served as a surrogate family and helped stave off loneliness.

The staff member on the International Desk attended the 11th annual meeting of MERCAA, the Middle Eastern Regional Council of Alcoholics Anonymous, which met in Kuwait. During the week prior to that, she met with members of the Fellowship in Dubai, Sharjah and Abu Dhabi: expatriates, Arabs from the Persian Gulf and two women who are part of the work force from Southeast Asia.

Although delayed by Hurricane Sandy, the winter 2012 issue of *Box 4-5-9* was distributed to A.A. members and groups. The visually stunning issue, with a holiday message from Bill W. on the cover, included a wonderful article about A.A. members turning into "thankful givers" as they put their gratitude into action through support of all A.A. services.

The Southeast Regional Forum held in November in Boca Raton, Florida, was attended by 647 members – with 276 first-time Forum attendees present. The Forum included simultaneous translation from English into Spanish in all the main room sessions and two workshops were conducted totally in Spanish, fostering participation from the local Spanish-speaking A.A. community.

An activity update for Intergroups and Central Offices has been sent that includes information about the launch of our new Spanish-language public service announcement “Tengo Esperanza,” the October A.A.W.S. Highlights, and our FAQ regarding GSO’s response to disasters.

Services

Past issues of *Box 4-5-9* in English, French and Spanish have been added to the Web site going back to 1980. The revised version of G.S.O.’s A.A. Web Site Policy has been posted to the site in English, French and Spanish.

After consideration of a request from the trustees’ Archives Committee, the A.A.W.S. board approved the concept of posting selected archival audio recordings on G.S.O.’s A.A. Web Site.

Publishing

Gross print sales through October 31, 2012 were budgeted at \$10,834,000, with actual sales of \$10,664,480, 1.6% below budget. Print book units distributed for this same period totaled 158,114 units; non-A.A. purchases accounting for 37,193 units, or 23.5%.

A.A.W.S. approved the Committee’s recommendation that funding for the oral translation of the Navajo Big Book be included in the 2013 A.A.W.S. budget.

Finance

An unaudited financial update as of October 31, 2012 was presented. It was noted that net sales were \$234,700 below budget (2%); gross profit was \$3,300 over budget (.05%) after deducting manufacturing, royalties, shipping and warehousing costs; and contributions were \$24,000 over budget. Travel and Meetings expenses were \$60,000 over budget. It was noted that \$40,000 of the \$69,000 was attributable to World Service Meeting delegates and some Board members being delayed in departing after the WSM and/or Board weekend due to Hurricane Sandy. Net loss for the 10 months was \$122,700 compared with a budgeted loss for the period of \$83,700.

Other

The board reviewed and approved a redrafted Fair Use Policy for A.A. literature which was submitted by the Intellectual Property (“IP”) Committee.

The board reviewed and approved both the Amendment to the current Defined Benefit Plan and the new Defined Contribution Plan. Starting January 1, 2013, new employees will participate in the defined contribution plan. Current employees will continue to be covered under the current defined benefit plan.

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