

from the DELEGATE'S DESK #4

Date: April 6, 2010
To: Mid-Southern California Area Groups
From: Linda C., Panel 60 Conference Delegate
RE: AAWS: Chairman's Report



Dear Fellow AA Members: For those of us whose lives have been transformed by the program and fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous, the fact that we are stakeholders in the organization is (or should be, I think) of vital importance and interest. Therefore, I am sharing a very short summary of the AAWS Chairman's report to the General Service Conference, which has been sent early to all of the Conference members.
Linda

"Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. (A.A.W.S.) is a not-for-profit corporation composed of nine directors. Members of A.A.W.S., Inc., are the 21 trustees of the General Service Board, who elect directors responsible for oversight of the General Service Office (GSO), group services, and the printing and distribution of Conference approved literature and service material. AAWS owns the copyrights on AA literature, and is responsible for translations of AA literature, including titles licensed to AA boards or committees in other countries. The structure, composition and responsibilities of AAWS are described in Chapter 10 of The AA Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Services."

The paragraph above is the opening of the AAWS Chairman's Report to the General Service Conference, dated April 2010. Following is a very short summary of the report, which, I hope will whet your appetite for more.

⇒ The AAWS Board met seven times since the 59th Conference to receive reports, review activity updates, track progress an implementation of Board and Conference recommendations, review financial reports, consider new budgets, discuss requests from AA members and address a myriad of other pertinent matters.

- ⇒ In 2009, GSO welcomed 1,513 visitors.
- ⇒ A net total of 1,703 new AA groups were listed at GSO in 2009.
- ⇒ Since the 59th Conference, AAWS directors and GSO staff have participated in five Regional Forums and two Special Forums.
- ⇒ The 24th Annual Intergroup/Central Office Seminar was held in Rochester, NY.
- ⇒ Planning for the 13th International Convention in San Antonio, Texas July 1-4 celebrating AA's 75th birthday continues. As of this report, over 35,000 people have registered.
- ⇒ The International Conference of Young People in AA (ICYPAA) was held in Atlanta, GA.

- ⇒ GSO staff members were invited to attend and participate in many area service events, conferences and conventions.
 - ⇒ The Board approved the Quarterly and Annual Web Site Activity Reports and forwarded them to the trustees' Committee on Public Information.
 - ⇒ Two trustees took part in the 35th Anniversary Convention of AA in Nagoya, Japan, March 12-14, 2009.
 - ⇒ A GSO Staff member and Trustee-at-large/Canada attended the 34th Central America Convention of AA in Guatemala City, Guatemala, April 1-3, 2009.
 - ⇒ Literature sales: Net sales \$13,476,000 (less than 1% less than budgeted). Gross margin from literature was approximately 1.4% over budget.
 - ⇒ Contributions were 3% less than budgeted and 2.5% less than the total for 2008.
 - ⇒ Total revenue was approximately \$300,000 more than budgeted and \$1,116,000 greater than 2008.
 - ⇒ Valerie O'N., employed at GSO since 1990, was appointed and welcomed as Publications Director at GSO.
 - ⇒ Book distribution was up 5% from the same period in 2008. Non-AA purchases accounted for 30.6% of all units purchased. (This large percentage is due to a major purchase made by Hazelden prior to the July 1, 2009 price increase.)
 - ⇒ 1,224,346 Big Book units were distributed in 2009, compared to 1,111,906 units in 2008.
 - ⇒ A new flyer with order form for new products was mailed Nov 25, 2009 in the Winter issue of Box 4-5-9.
 - ⇒ The new Young People's Video DVD was mailed to all Conference members in Dec 2009.
 - ⇒ At year-end, GSO had 78 full-time employees, and 5 part-time employees.
 - ⇒ The GSO Web site Contributions online project continued on schedule with final testing and reviews with staff throughout the year. The anticipated "go live" date is May 2010 with a demonstration to the General Service Conference in April.
 - ⇒ The GSO Records Department has begun the process of coordinating with Area Registrars to update all records with the intention of printing Regional Directories in 2010.
 - ⇒ On November 1, 2009, Michelle Mirza (non-alcoholic employee at GSO since 1999) was appointed and welcomed as the new Archives Director. She will oversee the continuing efforts to digitize thousands of group records, administrative records and other collections. The AAWS Board approved a budget for renovation in the Archives vault storage and the newly renovated area doubled the existing space.
- THE ENTIRE EARLY CORPORATE BOARD REPORT IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST:**
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