

Madeleine P.

Pacific Region Trustee

January 2007 Board Report

This was my third Board Weekend and my confusion has lessened but alas, still remains to a certain extent. The good news is I think I should be fine by my fourth year.

By this weekend, many of the agenda items for submission to the conference were getting the “wrinkles” ironed out of them and so it felt like the fruits of labor were coming to fruition. It has been an interesting process to work on storyboards, script revisions and the like and see works coming to life. So, let me cover some of the highlights without just re-hashing the agenda you have received.

First and foremost, I mentioned in my last board report about the confusion regarding our by-laws and how what was voted on at the conference last year was not what was approved by the Trustees committee. But, nevertheless, the conference voted and approved verbiage that stated that if a Class B trustee resigned or passed away, and if a replacement trustee was elected, that person would serve 4 years. This of course, would throw off the rotation and the director positions on our two operating boards. As it turns out, the verbiage was *supposed* to have stated that the replacement would serve *only the remaining term* and not a mandatory full four year term. So, this will be on our agenda to be voted on at the Conference. Yes, it is still rather confusing but hopefully not as bad as my last report.

AAWS Report

The Fellowship New Vision (FNV) System is reportedly on schedule and within budget. They are currently transferring the data from the old system to the FNV platform. The employee training and system testing will be taking place January and February 2007 and the Area record-keeper access will begin in late March 2007, projecting to add 10 record-keepers each week. Be patient with the process.

Publications

Total distribution of all books for the year 2006 was down 7% from 2005. Total units distributed for 2006 was 1,951,938, compared to 2,102,014 in 2005. Total AA purchases amounted to 1,607,760 units compared to non-A.A. units purchased of 344,178 (16% of the total).

For the year 2006, AAWS distributed 1,067,191 total units of Big Books, compared to 973,764 in 2005.

AAWS approved pricing of the Fourth Edition Audio Book of *Alcoholics Anonymous* on CD (M-81) at \$55.00.

Translation projects completed in the Fourth Quarter of 2006 were *Alcoholics Anonymous*, Fourth Edition in Croatian, "Information on A.A.," "A Brief Guide to A.A." and "This is A.A." in Farsi, the Public Information Workbook in Greek, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, Fourth Edition in Indonesian, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* and "What Happened to Joe" in Thai and the Public Information Workbook and "Twelve Concepts for World Services Illustrated" in Turkish.

AAWS had net sales of \$11,681,000 for the year 2006, approximately \$621,700 (5%) under budget.

Contributions received were \$6,068,200, \$548,200 more than budgeted and \$651,100 (12%) greater than the total for 2005.

Grapevine Report

Projects completed this quarter included *El Grupo Base* (the Spanish-language edition of *The Home Group*); recording of an audiobook edition of *Best of Bill* in English, and a large-print edition of *Language of the Heart* went to press.

The publication, *Emotional Sobriety*, sold 9,974 copies in three months. Total distribution of Grapevine books in 2006 was 68,108 versus 64,127 in 2005; distribution of Grapevine CDs/tapes was 8,546 versus 6,697 in 2005; distribution of La Vina CDs was 2,724 versus 2,236 in 2005. Average circulation of La Vina grew to 10,223 in 2006 while Grapevine's average monthly circulation was 103,893. With an average pass-along rate of 4 for both magazines, estimated readership was 51,000 for La Vina and approximately half a million for the Grapevine.

Financial Results

The Grapevine Corporation realized a loss of \$59,878 for the 12 months ended December 31, 2006, compared to a budgeted profit of \$19,879. Magazine income for La Vina was \$89,080 which was over budget by \$7,782. The net loss for La Vina for 2006 was \$72,004.

AAGrapevine.org

The AudioGrapevine has 554 subscribers to date and its subscription price has been reduced to \$20/yr and \$3.95/month, effective Feb. 1, 2007. For those of us who had a subscription already, they are giving us a second year free since they lowered the price.

Grapevine Board Actions

The names of Andrew T. and Ginger R. B. are being forwarded to the GSB trustees' nominating committee for instatement to the Grapevine Board as non-trustee directors after the 2007 GSC. Also, my name will be forwarded to serve as a director on the Grapevine Board following the conference. Wahooo!

Literature Committee

A reminder that the request for stories submissions for "A.A. for the Native North American" pamphlet has a deadline of June 30, 2007. To date, they have received 34 stories. Please encourage those Native American members to submit their stories.

The Final Report on the Spanish-language Third Edition Big Book, *Alcoholicos Anonimos* will be submitted to the Conference Committee on Literature.

Corrections

The informational video to train correctional professionals and staff will go to the conference this year. The purpose of this video is to educate those people working behind the walls what A.A. is and is not. The trustees' committee hopes it will be a useful tool for corrections committees.

International Committee

Obviously, there were a great number of things discussed, tabled, forwarded, etc. at the Board Weekend but I want to finish by sharing some of what Dorothy W. and Greg M. shared with the International Committee about their trip to the 6th Annual Gulf Coast Countries Convention in Kuwait.

I know I am guilty myself of getting caught up in the minutia of carrying out my service position in A.A. and losing sight of the big picture – that of carrying the message to the alcoholic who hasn't found our program yet. I forget that some still can't **get** to our program. Greg and Dorothy shared about their attendance at a convention where the local A.A.'s could not put up any signage advertising the location of the convention as it was illegal to meet. The Literature Table was covered by a blanket so as to not draw attention to it and only uncovered when someone needed to obtain a piece of literature for themselves. Did you know it is illegal for citizens to say they have ever had a drink there? And the punishment is 18 lashes? And you thought the "lash of alcoholism was bad?!" Dorothy and Greg shared about members from Iran (*our disease knows no boundaries and neither does our program of recovery*) who attended the convention who, when handed 6 A.A. pamphlets translated into their native tongue of Farsi, sat with tears streaming down their faces, filled with gratitude to read the "language of the heart" for the first time in their native language. They shared how there were no A.A. groups in the open in Iran as it was illegal but there several thousand N.A. meetings as they were not illegal. They shared how the police raid the A.A. meetings, arresting those in attendance. It makes no difference how long one has been sober, there is still a penalty for admitting to drinking alcohol. GSO's best "guestimate" is that A.A. is in approximately 160 countries today but that doesn't detail the circumstances surrounding that presence. I think many of us here in our conference came to A.A. to *avoid* the police and incarceration, not *incur* it! Please don't misconstrue my words for a political or religious commentary as they are not meant to be one. The situation just reminded me of how that "buck in the basket" helps to carry the message to those who can't get to it, can't read it or otherwise hear it. I believe there is a serious responsibility for those of us here in the U.S./Canada, being the oldest conference, to help where others can't. Somebody somewhere had to go out of their way to bring the A.A. message to your town, your neighborhood, your prison – someone like Ebby had to spend his own time and money to make a trip to an old friend to share his recovery. So when we feel bogged down in personalities or dotting the I's and crossing the T's, let's all remember why we do what we do.

Thank you for all you do for Alcoholics Anonymous and my sobriety.