

# A.A.W.S. HIGHLIGHTS

**DECEMBER 15, 2006**

A.A. World Service Board chairperson, Paul C., opened the meeting with a moment of silence and welcomed all directors and staff present.

General Manager, Greg M., reported on the Fellowship New Vision (FNV) project, which is the creation of an improved system to replace G.S.O.'s "Fellowship Database." In June, we issued a Request for Proposal (RFP), and vendor responses were carefully analyzed. Utopia Systems of Delaware was selected to develop the new system, which began in September. Greg was pleased to report that the development and deployment of Fellowship New Vision (FNV) was on schedule and within budget. Data is being migrated from the old "Fellowship Database" system to the new FNV platform. Employee training and system testing will run parallel with the old system during January and February 2007. Area record-keeper/registrar access will begin in March with ten added each week. Regular communications with Area record-keepers/registrars is underway in order to inform and train them on use of the new FNV system.

Last October, the Records Department mailed out 8,000+ Active/Unknown records to the 93 Areas with requests for verification of status by November 10. We received approximately 500 responses.

Electronic Delivery of A.A. Publications (EDAP) is now available to all Conference Members. Over the next several months, additional e-mail addresses will be added manually to the database with the goal of fully automated user-defined access in September 2007. This project will provide electronic delivery of *About AA* and *Markings* in digital format.

Audio and film preservation projects in the Archives are proceeding well with 4,085 records describing audio recording added to the InMagic database, and completion of 144 detailed entries on archival films. Archives personnel are transferring master copies to off-site storage, matching originals with the (new) CDs, and performing quality control on InMagic records.

The Archives' Disaster Plan was approved by the Trustees' Archives Committee, and G.S.O.'s Archivist, Amy F, plans for implementation in early 2007. Amy and staff are working to have emergency supplies ready, and assure that each member of the response team has a copy of the Plan. The Facilities Assessment Report and Environmental Report will be completed and placed on file.

G.S.O. Archives will have an International Conference of Young People in A.A. (I.C.Y.P.A.A.) display for viewing shortly. The current Winter issue of *Markings* includes an article about the donation of I.C.Y.P.A.A.'s archives, and *Box 459* will also include information on this.

Greg was grateful to report that the positive trend in voluntary contributions continues. Contributions through October 2006 are 10% ahead of budget and 12% greater than last year. Preliminary results for November indicate that contributions are within budget projections. Each contribution, whether large or small, represents a spiritual sacrifice made by A.A. members and groups, and makes a significant difference in strengthening the services offered by the General Service Office to members and groups.

Following the close of the General Service Board's quarterly meeting on October 30, 2006, the General Service Office decided not to publish a revised version of the General Service Board's Bylaws for insertion into the 2006-2007 edition of *The A.A. Service Manual with Twelve Concepts for World Service*, by Bill W. as previously reported in the October 27, 2006 "A.A.W.S. Highlights."

## Services

Conference – Preparations for the 57<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference (GSC) are on schedule and the first planning meeting for staff was held on November 28. On December 14, the random selection for the 2007 Conference committees took place. The 57<sup>th</sup> GSC Communications Kit will be mailed to Conference members to arrive by January 1, 2007.

Cooperation With the Professional Community (C.P.C.) – On November 15, a C.P.C. activity report was mailed to area, district and other C.P.C. chairs in Canada and the U.S. This mailing included samples of locally produced C.P.C. service pieces developed to assist C.P.C. volunteers manning booths/exhibits at professional conferences and while speaking to non-A.A. audiences.

Literature – The Holiday Issue of *Box 459* includes “Twelve Tips on Keeping Your Holiday Season Sober and Joyous.” A.A. groups and local offices often post this article on bulletin boards, distribute copies to newcomers or place it on podiums and tables at A.A. meetings during the Holiday Season.

Nominating/Special Needs – A copy of the Fall *About A.A.* publication featuring Special Needs was included in a recent mailing to Special Needs and Accessibilities chairs.

Regional Forums – In November, 102 Hispanic A.A. members along with Leonard B, Greg M., Julio E., Robin B., Hernan M., Ivy R and Valerie O., joined together for the Special Hispanic Forum held in Kenosha, Wisconsin, to create an atmosphere of respect, dignity, enthusiasm, fellowship, information and sharing. The newly purchased translation transistor sets, which replaced the costly rental equipment, were portable and lightweight, and very well received.

The A.A.W.S. Services Committee's recommendation that the 2007 Conference Committee on Report & Charter consider adding to the A.A. Directories (Canada, Western U.S., Eastern U.S.) a separate subsection within the section “International Correspondence Meetings” for listing “Online Intergroups” that request to be listed and that online intergroups provide an e-mail and/or Web site address to be included in the Directories, was approved by the Board.

The A.A.W.S. Publishing Committee's recommendation to reduce the price of the audio CD set, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, Fourth Edition (M-81) from \$85.00 to \$55.00, was approved by the Board.

Publications – Total distribution of all books through November 2006 was 1,781,667, down 9% from the 1,957,564 units distributed during the same period of 2005. Total year-to-date A.A. purchases in 2006 were 1,468,926 units; while non-A.A.s purchased 312,741 units, or 16% of year-to-date purchases (which are within the typical range). Through November 2006, 971,904 Big Book units were distributed compared to 897,017 distributed in the same period of 2005. October and November 2006 gross sales were budgeted at \$1,956,549. Actual sales, unaudited, were \$2,014,333, 3% under budget. October and November 2005 gross sales were \$1,763,176. In October and November 2006, 4,088 orders—cash and charge combined—were processed, plus 1,211 no-charge orders. There were 164 French orders processed. In October and November 2006, we processed 329 online orders. We have processed 1,135 online orders since the program started and now have 199 account holders.

Financial – Unaudited results for the ten-month period ending October 31, 2006 reflected net sales of \$9,970,800, contributions of \$4,854,500 and total revenue of \$10,836,100. Unaudited net profit for the ten months of \$599,225 compares with a \$509,164 budgeted profit and is \$398,900 less than the \$998,000 profit reported for the same period in 2005.