

A.A.W.S. HIGHLIGHTS

March 16, 2007

A.A. World Service Board chairperson, Paul C., welcomed all directors, staff and guests. General Manager, Greg M. shared that most of those present were aware that Nell Wing passed away on February 14th. Nell was Bill W.'s longtime secretary and A.A.'s first Archivist. She began working for A.A. in 1947 and retired in 1982 after 35 years of sterling and dedicated service. Nell was cherished by A.A.'s around the world, many of whom knew her as "Nellie."

G.S.O. Archivist, Amy Filiatreau, reported that we received a fantastic collection from the daughter of Bob V., an early New York A.A. member, whose personal story, "The Backslider," appeared in the First Edition of our Big Book. Bill and Lois were close friends of Bob and his wife Maggie and their daughter recalls a great deal about those early days. The collection includes letters by Bill W. and other significant figures; manuscripts of A.A. literature distributed for review and comment, literature signed by Bill W., early pamphlets and A.A. *Grapevines*, Convention programs and flyers, and much more. We have asked Bob's daughter if she would permit us to publish a story about her father and his collection in *Markings* and/or *Box 459*. We feel that other descendants of early A.A. members may have similar collections stored in attics or basements, yet have little awareness of the historical significance.

Preliminary financial numbers for February 2007 are encouraging. Net sales are ahead of budget by 9%, and contributions are 4% more than budget. Most important is that the percentage of groups contributing to the General Service Board increased in 2006 to 45.5%, compared with 43.2% in 2005. Greg shared that he believes the increased participation of A.A. groups is a direct result of delegates and trustees clearly communicating the services that are offered to A.A. members and groups by G.S.O. on behalf of the General Service Conference and the General Service Board.

Services

Conference – Following the January General Service Board weekend, secretaries prepared background for their Conference committees. A compiled version of the background was sent to the Conference Members who requested this material in hard-copy or in PDF files on disk.

Cooperation With the Professional Community (C.P.C.) – In March and April, A.A. will exhibit at a large national public information event for gays and lesbians, and at the following national professional conferences: American College of Physicians, Occupational Health Nurses, American Counseling Association, Society of Army Physician Assistants, Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys, Federal Probation and Pretrial Officers, and National Hispanic Medical Association.

Corrections – In keeping with a 1999 Advisory Action, a mailing was sent this month to delegates and corrections chairpersons asking for A.A. volunteers to write to inmates on an individual basis.

International – March was a busy month of travel for our trustees. Dr. William Clark, Class A trustee, represented A.A. at the UAE International Conference on Addictions held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. Trustee-at-Large/Canada, Murray M, attended the A.A. National Conference of Uruguay in Colonia.

Literature –The February/March 2007 issue of *Box 459* features an article on the history of A.A. in Canada. In addition, there are articles on "Taking Pictures at A.A. Events: Think Before You Push, Pull or Click," "A.A. 101: How Our Upside-Down Structure Makes the Fellowship Go Round" and "Paying a Low Rent Is Not Always a Bargain" that will be of interest to many A.A. members.

Nominating/Special Needs/Remote Communities – On March 1 this assignment helped to mail out the invitations from the delegate chairs of the pre-Conference Remote Communities Meeting Committee to all members of the 57th General Service Conference. The theme of this year's pre-Conference meeting is "Remote Communities: A Twelfth Step Challenge."

Public Information – The January 2007 tracking report for the 2006 P.S.A., "Testimonials," brought some encouraging news with close to 5,000 airplays for the 30-day period and the continued support from at least one major network.

Treatment Facilities/LIM – The Treatment Facilities assignment has been busy welcoming all 452 T.F., 116 B.T.G., and 61 H&I area and district chairs to their service positions. This included sharing of experience that suggests how beneficial it is when outgoing chairs help their successors become acquainted with the work of the committee.

The A.A.W.S. Services Committee received an updated progress report on actions taken by G.S.O. in response to the A.A.W.S. Board's recommendations regarding D.C.M. communications, and noted that many of the recommendations have been implemented or are on schedule for implementation. Recommended changes included additions to the D.C.M. Kit, posting D.C.M. related materials to G.S.O.'s A.A. Web Site and changes to the D.C.M. welcome letter.

The committee noted with appreciation that the Intra-Office Web Site Committee (IOWC) has continued to review pamphlets for possible posting on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web Site in accordance with its previously-established schedule. In addition, the Services Committee had no objection to posting the pamphlet, "A Message to Correctional Professionals," on the Web site.

The A.A.W.S. Publishing Committee recommended, and the full board approved, the following clarification of customers qualified for online ordering: Any recognized central or intergroup office, any district or area or any committee thereof, and any other entity that has spent \$25,000 or more on A.A. literature in any one of the past three years. Customers must be from either the United States or Canada.

Publications Director, Chris C., announced that the revised pamphlet, "Young People and A.A.," is available and includes new stories for younger people.

The A.A.W.S. Finance Committee reviewed the actions taken by trustees' committees at the recent General Service Board weekend, which have resulted in additional items/expenses to 2007 G.S.O. operations. The committee engaged in a discussion as to actions that would be appropriate to accommodate these changes in the budget.

Transfer of Funds to Reserve Fund – The Finance Committee recommended, and the A.A.W.S. Board approved, the transfer of \$350,000 to the General Service Board's Reserve Fund.

Transfer of Retained Earnings to General Fund – The committee recommended, and the A.A.W.S. Board approved, the transfer of retained earnings to the General Service Board's General Fund in the amount of \$2,420,827.43. This transfer will cover the General Service Board's loss of \$2,199,854.17, the *La Viña* loss of \$72,004.11, the net of the Capital Projects Fund expenditure of \$398,969.15; and, together with the funds already received from the Reserve Fund of \$250,000, will restore the General Fund balance to \$57,012.90.

Publications – Total distribution of all books for the months of January and February 2007 was 365,830, up 13% from the same period in 2006, when 323,189 units were distributed. During the two months, 186,958 Big Book units (all editions) were distributed, compared to 174,578 during the same period in 2006. In January and February 2007, gross sales were budgeted at \$2,054,040. Actual sales, unaudited, came in at \$2,260,592, 10% over budget. During the same two-month period in 2006, gross sales amounted to \$2,045,255.