

**Madeleine P.**  
**November 2008 Board Report**

Hello Everyone,

Well, you got my e-mail regarding the 2020 International, new GM and new GSB Chair so everything else probably pales in comparison but here goes anyway.

**AAWS**  
**Publications**

Total distribution of all books through September 2008 was 1,613,230, up 1% from the same period in 2007. Through September, total AA purchases amounted to 1,295,605 units, while non-AAs accounted for 317,625 units, or 19%.

Big Book sales were 845,462. Also, in order to reduce inventory, the price of *Experience, Strength and Hope* (B-20) has been lowered from \$9.00 to \$5.00. This price remains in effect from September 25 through December 31, 2008.

Publication of *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age* in a soft cover format was approved and will be priced at \$7.00.

**Financial**

Net sales were up at \$9,558,157 and contributions received for the first nine months were \$4,648,600.

**World Service Meeting**

The 20<sup>th</sup> World Service Meeting was held in New York City October 26-30 and had 59 delegates from more than 40 countries in attendance. We were honored to have many of these delegates attend our Board Weekend.

**AAGV**

For the first nine months of 2008, the AAGV realized a loss of \$95,111 in comparison to a budgeted loss of \$39,894. This was due to increased postage and shipping costs and professional fees. Monthly circulation of the print magazine averaged 105,984.

La Vina realized a net loss of \$56,351 compared to a budgeted loss of \$49,112. Increased shipping costs and a slight decrease in subscriptions are attributed to the difference. We are actively looking for a new La Vina editor after the recent departure of Jorge C. who previously held the position.

The AAGV Board will be interviewing 8 candidates for non-trustee director at our December Planning meeting. We will be replacing two positions, one held by Andy T. who passed away in August and Jim B., who will be rotating at the 59th GSC.

## **GSB Trustees Committee Reports**

### **GSB Trustees Finance Committee**

You should have received the request from the Trustees Finance Committee regarding sharing from the fellowship on the idea of becoming self-supporting through contributions only. I regret the information was sent in English only but the Spanish and French translations are in process at the moment and hopefully will be sent out within the next two weeks.

### **GSB Trustees Nominating Committee**

As I already told you earlier, the GSB chair has been elected by the GSB. There are quite a few positions rotating this year, 7 off the GSB, two General Service trustees, two Regional trustees, one Trustee-at-Large, one board chair and one Class A. Both operating boards will be replacing two non-trustee directors. So, one busy committee and the decisions will be public as soon as possible.

### **GSB Trustees Archives Committee**

This committee discussed the GSC floor action that was “recommitted to committee” to establish Archives as a standing Conference committee and took no action. They based their decision on the group conscience of the 2008 Conference Policy/Admissions Committee that took no action on the request and also, they found no compelling reason to establish this committee after an extensive review of background.

## **GSB Trustees CPC/Treatment Facilities Committees**

### **Treatment Facilities**

The committee agreed to forward a final version of the revised video, Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous to the conference committee. They also agreed to forward a proposal to include information that would assist area/district TF committees with their effort to carry the AA message to treatment professionals and patients in out-patient treatment programs.

### **CPC**

The committee agreed to forward the revised video segment directed to professionals in the employment/human relations field with minor changes. There was also a subcommittee report on the need for a “fact sheet” to be developed for drug court professionals and a draft informational service piece will be brought to the February Board meeting.

### **GSB Trustees Corrections Committee**

The staff secretary reported that “The AA Group Handbook for Groups that Meet in Correctional Facilities” has been added to the Corrections “bucket” on GSO’s AA Web site under the section titled “For Groups and Members” and can be printed directly from the site.

Of special note, the committee recommended to the GSB that the biennial mailing to correctional professionals be suspended until a more effective and fiscally prudent means of communicating with professionals be identified. Out of the four mailings to over 7,000 identified corrections professionals, the return rate was less than 2% in each of the first two mailings and less than 1% in each of the second two. For the two mailings done in 2004 and 2006, the cost per response was \$293.20 and \$160.42 respectively. The committee did not feel that these results were within the spirit of the 1999 Advisory Action, and will forward to the 2009 Conference Committee on Corrections several possible alternatives that may be more effective in carrying the message of AA.

### **GSB Trustees Literature Committee**

The committee recommended to the GSB that the manuscript of the revised, "The AA Member – Medications and Other Drug" pamphlet to the 2009 Conference Committee on Literature.

With regards to the floor action that was "committed to committee" regarding the development of a pamphlet for First Nations, the committee noted that the pamphlet, "AA for the Native North American" contains stories from members of First Nations and that a reference has been added to the introduction.

The committee also took no action on the floor action that was "recommitted to committee" requesting a title change to the "44 Questions" pamphlet. This committee stated while they felt that the title of the pamphlet could be improved, they hoped that the maker of the floor action would consider presenting this or a similar request as an agenda item for consideration at a future conference.

The committee also discussed and took no action on a member's request to "simplify" and "gender neutralize" the Big Book. The committee noted there was no widely expressed need for a simplified version of the Big Book and referenced prior conference advisory actions requiring no change to the first 164 pages of the Big Book and also including the Preface, the Doctor's Opinion, Dr. Bob's Nightmare and the Appendices.

The committee did discuss and agree to forward to the Conference Committee on Literature a request to add the text "Obtain and begin to study a copy of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous" be added to the pamphlet, "A Newcomer Asks" (P-24) under the existing heading, "What advice do you give to new members?"

The committee also discussed at length a request that "we explore creation of a Conference-approved video addressing the spiritual vs. religious nature of our program." The chair appointed a subcommittee to review this request and broader aspects, a present a report for the committee's January 31, 2009 meeting.

### **GSB Trustees Public Information Committee**

The AA Videos for Young People project received enthusiastic support for the submissions received so far and asked the Publications Department to bring a rough draft video to the January 2009 meeting.

Also, three rough draft concepts were presented to the committee and one concept was selected, with a request a rough draft of a wall poster utilizing that concept be developed by the Publications Department and be brought to the January 2009 meeting.

This committee also requested the staff secretary create an account on YouTube where AA television PSAs can be uploaded and viewed. The staff secretary was also instructed to discontinue the account if it is found to compromise the Twelve Traditions in any way. A progress report will be brought to the January 2009 meeting.

### **GSB Trustees Committee on the General Service Conference**

OK, this committee had lots on their proverbial plate.

Let's begin with the 2010 Conference Site selection. As many of you remember, the contract expires with the Crowne Plaza expires at the end of 2009. The rates were increasing 35% and would not be a viable option. Believe it or not, finding reasonable hotels that can accommodate our conference are slim and almost none. Our conference committee break out rooms are hard to find. So.....the 2010 GSC will be held at the Rye Town Hilton in Rye, New York. It is located approx. 30 miles from NYC. The GSC was held there in the past.

Also, the "commit to committee" and "recommit to committee" issue was worked on, as well as how to handle the "decline to consider." A solution was sent forward to the GSB but after much loving discussion, it was tabled. I am sure the committee will revisit these issues in January. More will be revealed.

The committee discussed the request to rotate the GSC around the 8 regions of North American every other year and took no action. There was much discussion but the committee felt they needed to see how the Rye Town Hilton worked out and also took into consideration the logistics of rotating the GSC, tax laws, site selection process and loss of negotiating position by not having a repeat/multi-year hotel contract.

### **Conclusion**

That's all I can overload you with at this moment. You will be receiving complete committee minutes that include even more information. I just wanted to hit the high points. I have to admit having the WSM delegates with us for the weekend was a treat. They commented on how well we work together and how respectful we were with each other. (Really! They did say that.) My favorite concept I took away from their presence was from Deena, a beautiful man from South Africa.

He told us, in his language, the word that describes Alcoholics Anonymous was “ubuntu,” pronounced like it looks. Translated, it means, “I am because you are.” How perfect.

So, to all of you, ubuntu!

Madeleine P.  
Pacific Region Trustee