

Fellow WSEA 92 Members,

It's hard to believe that August is already half over! Since my last report to you I continue to have the opportunity to travel our wonderful and beautiful Area meeting newcomers, and reacquainting myself with familiar faces and old friends. I really do love traveling our Area and seeing all of its geographic diversity. Traveling to the Spring Canyon Campground just east of Grand Coulee and to Spokane's South Hill Comstock Park in this last month allowed me to view most all of Eastern Washington's channeled scablands. It's fascinating to me to imagine what it must have been like when a great ice dam broke some 20,000 years ago to carve out what we see today. Anyway a lot has gone on in this last month so here we go!

As I mentioned above I enjoyed the opportunity to present Delegate reports in both District 12 and 2 in this last month at their annual picnics and I would very much like to thank every member who helped plan, setup, cook, and attend these events. I pray that the day never comes that the joy of fellowship outside of the meeting halls fades.

In news from Alcoholics Anonymous World Services (AAWS):

The AAWS Board met on July 30th with Chairman John K. and General Manager Phyllis H. presiding.

In April the Points of Light Institute in Washington DC bestowed the honor of recognition to AA's Co-Founders. Class A Trustee Emeritus Elaine McDowell accepted the award on behalf of AA and spoke of our worldwide Fellowships growth and reach.

GSO's newly formed Communications Team has made substantial progress developing a uniform communication method that identifies the types of communication that AAWS sends and receives.

The Archives has processed 700 research requests from Trustees, Directors, Staff as well as the general membership. The summer issue of *Markings* (Archives newsletter) was the first electronic-only version of the newsletter. Providing the newsletter electronically will save the department a great deal in expenses as the average cost of producing *Markings* per year is approximately \$20,000. Currently there are 2,454 subscribers to the Archive newsletter. To commemorate the publication of the Big Book's 70th anniversary the Archives is exhibiting all four editions of the Big Book plus an original draft of the pre-publication manuscript with handwritten comments and the early bookplates.

Work on the Online Contributions project continues with a preliminary demonstration during the AAWS Directors meeting. There will be another demonstration of the project during their September meeting with additional demonstrations planned for the full General Service Board (GSB) and 2010 General Service Conference (GSC).

July 24-26, Phyllis H. and Valerie O'N. traveled to Bangkok, Thailand for the 8th Asia-Oceania Zonal Meeting. Their attendance was in part to serve as a resource for translations and licensing information. June 19-22, Class A Trustee and Chairman of the GSB Ward Ewing and GSO Staffer Julio E. joined nearly 5,000 AA members for the 9th National Convention of AA in Bucaramanga, Colombia.

The Corrections Correspondence Service (CCS) continues as one of our most valuable efforts. For the first half of 2009, 414 male inmates and 200 female inmates were linked to an outside volunteer. This has resulted in having just a few Spanish speaking inmates remaining on the waiting list.

Inserts for the Group Handbook are being reviewed and updated for the next printing.

The following AAWS Service Committee recommendations were approved by the full Board:

- 1st and 2nd Quarterly website reports were forwarded to the Trustees' Committee on Public Information
- Revised composition, scope and procedure of the text of GSO's Intra-Office Website Committee (IOWC)
- Conversion of videos currently on GSO's AA website to flash video streaming format with an estimated cost of \$4,530.00.

AAWS Finance Committee un-audited results (1/1-6/30 2009):

- Net sales: \$8,410,300, up approximately \$1,923,300 from same period 08 (FSP 08)
- Gross profit from literature: \$5,099,410 up \$1,416,427 FSP 08
- Contributions: \$2,883,440 down \$203,264 FSP 08
- Total revenue (gross profit from literature sales, contributions and interest earned on cash flow): \$7,983,534 up \$1,209,507 FSP 08
- Net profit: \$1,313,607 up \$1,280,151 FSP 08

Mid-year budget adjustments of \$66,850 for writers' fees for 09 GSC approved projects were:

- Develop Special Needs Pamphlet: \$6,850
- Develop New Television Public Service Announcement (PSA): \$40,000
- Revise Combo Radio PSA on CD: \$20,000

The following AAWS Publishing Committee recommendations were approved:

- Future Membership Survey displays be produced in Spanish and French
- Request that the abridged format of the Big Book be produced in audio CD format with an estimated cost of \$18
- Request that the American Sign Language (ASL) Big Book and *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* videos be converted to DVD format

A report on the Kindle project was given by General Manager (GM) Phyllis H. on the current status of the negotiations with Amazon Digital Services, Inc. (ADSI). A request to withdraw the Big Book from the Kindle service was forwarded to ADSI on July 10th and the Publications Committee unanimously agreed to support the termination of the contract. The committee requested that a letter from the AAWS Board Chairman be sent out explaining the history and resolution of the Kindle project to all Conference members.

Publications reported the following un-audited results for the first half of 2009:

- Total distribution of all books: 1,495,764 units up 1,089,218 units FSP 08 (due to large purchases prior to the July 1st price increase).
- Total AA purchases: 1,072,471 units
- Total non-AA purchases: 423,293 units (28% of total purchases due to large order from Hazelden)
- Gross sales: \$4,088,007 up \$1,967,934 FSP 08

In news from the General Service Board:

The GSB met August 1-3 and the following is a summary of the report provided by our Pacific Regional Trustee Madeleine P. for the first half (1/1-6/30) of 2009. Duplicate information has been removed between the two reports.

It was agreed that the vacancy created on the Board by the passing of John S. Class B Trustee be covered by Jo-Anne L. Trustee at Large/Canada (TAL/CA) until the 2010 (60th) GSC. It was also decided to not fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Class A Trustee Jeanne Woodford for this coming year.

AAWS

The General Service Office welcomed 729 visitors.

Publications

- Big Book distribution equaled 866,548 units up 294,857 units FSP 08
- A 2010 International Convention souvenir version of *AA Comes of Age* in soft cover will be produced and priced at \$7.00

Other

The AAWS Board accepted the recommendation from the 2009 (59th) GSC and will begin annually reviewing the AA Service Manual and forward necessary updates to the Report and Charter Conference Committee.

International

- Phyllis H. GM GSO, Jo-Anne L. TAL/CA and Julio E. Staff GSO attended the 4th Sub-Saharan Africa Service Meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa, May 29-31, 2009.

AA Grapevine (GV)

Average monthly circulation was 104,571 (103,211 print/1360 audio). Distribution of books, CDs and other items was up 13.5% FSP 08. The website averaged 43,000 visits/month. A limited run special GV will be printed commemorating the 75th anniversary of AA and will be priced at \$4.00. Total GV income was \$920, 835 and total expenses were \$947,973 yielding a loss of \$27,138.

La Vina average bimonthly circulation was 9,620 down 1,022 FSP 08. Total income was \$46,877 and total expenses were \$69,001 resulting in a net loss of \$22,124.

Archives

- Discussed Conference Committee request to prepare a report on the feasibility of developing a self-guided tour of the GSO Archives and that report be placed on the agenda for discussion during their next meeting in November.

- Discussed Conference Committee request to add a daily historical reference to the GSO website and forwarded the request to the IOWC Committee for consideration.

General Service Conference (GSC)

- The committee is discussing the development of a policy regarding the use of “full-face videos” and has tabled it until the Fall Quarterly Board meeting (10/31-11/2). It is also an agenda item for the Trustees’ Committee on CPC/Treatment Facilities.
- It was recommended and approved that the use of the online dashboard for all Conference members be continued for an additional 2 years beginning with the 2010 GSC
- The topics of floor actions, commit to committee and recommit to committee were discussed at length and tabled to until the Fall Quarterly meeting.
- Accepted request for two observers from the General Service structure of Venezuela to attend the 2010 GSC.

Treatment Facilities/Cooperation with the Professional Community (TF/CPC)

- It was recommended and approved to rename the TF/CPC committee to “Trustees Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities/Special Need-Accessibilities (CPC/TF/SNA)
- The revised video *Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous* will be produced on a single DVD containing English, Spanish and French with a planned release date of late this September. Dubbing and subtitles will be options and permission was secured from the copyright holder to use the song Happy Birthday at the end of the video.
- The committee will postpone the development of a Special Needs pamphlet until the November meeting at which time an outline of the proposed pamphlet will be presented by the Publications Director for discussion.

Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC)

- Staff provided a Publications Director update in response to the 09 GSC CPC additional committee consideration in regard to completing the production of consistent voice over text regarding anonymity and singleness of purpose in the three CPC video segments. A DVD containing the three segments will be priced by AAWS and the DVD will be included in the contents of the CPC kit.
- Discussion regarding the use of full face videos was held and will continue during the November meeting of the committee
- A revised draft of the service piece directed to drug court/alcohol court professionals will be reviewed and if approved will be forwarded to the Publications Dept. for final editing. The finished piece will be sent out in the Activity Update to all CPC chairs for use.

Corrections

- A subcommittee was appointed to develop a plan for proceeding with the revision of the pamphlet “It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell” and will report back in October during the next scheduled meeting.
- Discussed 09 GSC committee request for gathering of Fellowship experience regarding the signing of legally binding documents and tabled further discussion until its next meeting in October. The Chair appointed a subcommittee to compile suggestions in this regard that may be helpful to AA members involved in Corrections service and to report back to the committee during the October meeting.

International Conventions/Regional Forums (IC/RF)

- Registration forms for the International Convention will be mailed in August and will be available online starting September 1st.
- There will be no fun run during the International because of declining interest and heat concerns.
- A Local Forum was approved for the Spanish speaking Districts in Area 08 San Diego/Imperial CA to be held on August 22nd 2010.
- It was recommended and approved that online hotel registration for Regional Forums will be available on the GSO website with page break disclaimers.

Literature

- The Publications Dept was asked by the committee to revise the draft pamphlet “The AA Member-Medications and Other Drugs” paying attention to the suggestions provided during the 09 GSC and with additional review by AA members who are physicians and to provide the draft at the Fall meeting for review.
- Discussed 09 Conference Advisory Action that the committee undertakes a thorough review of the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship.” A progress report will be brought back to the next quarterly meeting by the subcommittee.

Public Information (PI)

- The committee is hopeful that the Young People's Video PSA will be available this fall. The committee is urging the Fellowship to encourage participation as there continues to be a need for new submissions.

Nominating

- Multiple changes were made to the language in the nominating committees' procedures for clarity.
- The committee this year will be choosing two new Class A Trustee candidates to replace Bill Clark and Jeanne Woodford.
- Committee will participate in choosing two new Regional Trustees (Eastern Canada, Pacific)

That's it you're up to speed on the latest, until we meet again take care.

Yours in the Fellowship,

Rad M.

Delegate 58/92