

# A.A.W.S. HIGHLIGHTS

July 26, 2007

General Manager, Greg M., reported on the day prior to this meeting the two Trustees-at-Large, Jo-Anne L. and Dorothy W.; and the Chairperson of the General Service Board, Leonard Blumenthal, had attended an International Orientation. This was designed to familiarize the Trustees-at-Large on their roles as World Service Meeting (WSM) Delegates and share information on planning and traveling internationally.

On July 9, 2007, G.S.O. Staff members completed their scheduled rotation to new assignments. New G.S.O. Staff Coordinator, Adrienne B., was elected as a new A.A.W.S. Director replacing Eva S.

Fellowship New Vision (FNV) Registrars and other Area Officers continue to applaud the ease, user-friendliness and efficiency of FNV. Thus far, about 65 areas are onboard and Support Services Manager, Karen Hale, will communicate with the remaining areas to determine their intentions regarding use of the new program.

The Records Department completed the annual update of groups listed with G.S.O. and forwarded the details to the Publications Department, which plans to ship Regional Directories (Eastern, Western, and Canadian) the first week of August.

In the past year, we have had a large increase in the number of *Markings* subscribers. We will soon have to increase print-runs, unless a significant number of subscribers opt for electronic delivery. Now that Phase 1 of FNV is complete, we are looking forward to approval of Phase 2, which will include a program for offering electronic delivery to *Markings* subscribers.

Conversion Technologies International (CTI) is nearing completion on conversion of DocXNet images (Group Histories). We continue to anticipate completion of the entire project by year-end 2007, within budget.

## Services

Corrections – While the recent response to pleas for help to outside male A.A. members has been gratifying, and many of the stalwarts of the program took on extra inmates, the requests from male inmates for correspondents have continued to come in at two or three times as many as the outside volunteers. Of the 73 male inmates still on the waiting list, 35 are new to the CCS program and have never been linked with an outsider, while 38 inmates have previously been linked to one or more outsiders but have lost touch. We continue to have 316 outside A.A. women waiting for female inmates.

Group Services – Mary Clare L. has been working closely with G.S.O.'s A.A. Web Site manager to make certain that all recommendations for changes and/or additions to G.S.O.'s A.A. Web Site that have been approved by the A.A.W.S. Board are on schedule for implementation.

International – During July 5-8, Greg M. and Julio E. attended the 7<sup>th</sup> Asia Oceania Service Meeting (AOSM) in Ranzan, Japan. Eighteen delegates representing 11 countries attended and participated in this wonderful event. For the first time in their history the AOSM formed committees to discuss matters of interest to A.A. in the region. The AOSM committees are: Policy/Admission/Finance; Literature/Publishing; Working with Others; and Agenda/Web Site/Site Selection. The site of the 8<sup>th</sup> AOSM (2009) will be Thailand, with the Theme of "Reaching Out."

Prior to the start of the AOSM, an afternoon was reserved for visiting the Japan Service Office (JSO) in Tokyo to share mutual experience regarding matters such as Public Information, Cooperation With the Professional Community and questions related to literature copyright laws in Japan and the U.S.

Literature – We received a total of 71 stories from Native North Americans for possible inclusion in the revision of the pamphlet, “A.A. for the Native North American.” The deadline was June 30, 2007.

Eva S. attended a Spanish-language Literature Workshop of Area 44 held at Northern New Jersey's service office in South Plainfield. Local members gave wonderful presentations on A.A. Conference-approved literature and were well-informed. Eva had the opportunity to provide the history of the development of the Spanish-language 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition Big Book. The Spanish Intergroup and Spanish-language groups of Area 44 were all encouraged to order literature through Area 44's office in order to benefit from the quantity discounts. This was very well received by all the entities present at this event.

Public Information – “A Force of Nature,” the television Public Service Announcement (P.S.A.), approved by the 57<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference, is now available for purchase in English, Spanish and French, in the following three formats: DVD, U-Matic and Betacam SP. The 2007 Membership Survey is in full swing: Area Delegates are busy working with their D.C.M.s, G.S.R.s and other group contacts to facilitate the completion of questionnaires at randomly-selected groups' meetings. The questionnaires will be filled out during the latter two weeks of August, and the completed forms mailed back to the P.I desk in September.

Regional Forums – With three days as Regional Forums Coordinator under his belt, Rick W. headed off to the Special Forum in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, on July 15-16. Fortunately, Valerie O. accompanied Rick. The 114 people in attendance from around Canada and the U.S. joined together to hear reports from G.S.O. and Grapevine Staff and trustees. It was an exciting and moving experience. In a sharing session about Remote Communities, a woman got up and shared that she had left treatment and returned home to a remote village where there was no A.A. Someone had suggested writing to G.S.O., and so she did. Someone responded from the office, telling her about the Loners-Internationalists Meeting (LIM) by mail. She said that it saved her life, and she participated in LIM for the next four years.

The A.A.W.S. Services Committee reviewed a draft addition to the Web site activity report, which it had requested at its June 8 meeting, which adds more historical information by showing the number of visitors to G.S.O.'s A.A. Web Site since 1996, and recommended that it become part of the Web site activity report. The committee recommended that the Web site questionnaires being circulated at regional forums continue to be distributed and collected but that reports not be created after the Northeast, West Central and Southwest Regional Forums pending further committee and board action. The committee recommended that the Second Quarter 2007 Web Site Report, in the form presented to this meeting, be approved and forwarded to the Trustees' Committee on Public Information and that feedback be requested on the additions to the format for First and Second Quarters of 2007. Motions to accept the recommendations were passed by the board.

Publications – Total distribution of all books through the month of June 2007 was 1,064,058, up 9% from the same period in 2006, when 972,927 units were distributed. Through June 2007, total A.A. purchases amounted to 874,181 units, while non-A.A.s accounted for 189,877 units, or 18% of total year-to-date purchases. Through June 2007, we distributed 568,433 Big Book units (all editions), compared to 528,589 during the same period in 2006. In May and June 2007, gross sales were budgeted at \$2,098,800. Actual sales, unaudited, came in at \$2,044,545, or 2% under budget. In the same period of 2006, gross sales amounted to \$2,881,720.

Financial – Unaudited results for the first six months of 2007 reflected net sales of \$6,332,800, contributions of \$3,001,600 and total revenue of \$6,564,000. Unaudited net income for the six months of \$253,300 compares with \$196,300 budgeted and was \$38,600 more than the \$214,700 reported for the same period in 2006.