

Pacific Regional Trustee Report: BOARD WEEKEND

August 2010

Rod B.

Needless to say the Board weekend was quite an experience! I am glad that I had two General Service Conferences under my belt or I would have been totally blown away. It is like a smaller version of the GSC. The first thing I realized is that it is not a weekend, unless I apply my alcoholic thinking to it. My drinking weekends were first Friday and Saturday; then Friday, Saturday and Sunday; then Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday; then and so on. I arrived for my Board "weekend" Wednesday night and left Monday afternoon, just like my other "weekends." I enjoyed that irony, or is it synchronicity?

GRAPEVINE: Thursday we met together at the Grapevine Corporate Board quarterly meeting starting at 8:30 a.m. and going until 4:30 p.m. Included in the discussions were reports from the management team, financial and budget reports, a report on the survey by the Grapevine, a report or discussion on finding a new editor, and circulation. I believe that we all know the challenges the Grapevine faces to put out such a quality publication under difficult circumstances that are inherent to its structure: circumstances that other publications don't have. For instance, the Grapevine does not place advertising in our magazine, we have an Unfulfilled Subscription Account (where the dollar amount is held in an account to refund any subscriber who may want a refund; other magazines don't do this) and, of course, subscription pricing that is mindful and beneficent to the AA member.

For the six months ended June 30, 2010, there was a net loss of \$286,223 (over budget by \$59,922).

Total Grapevine income, including interest from the Reserve Fund, was \$899,445 (\$26,922 under budget).

Expenses for Grapevine were \$1,185,668 (\$33,000 over budget.)

LA VINA: The 64-page, black and white, Perfect bound issue will debut in January 2011.

La Viña income was \$49,963 (\$3,211 over budget,)

Gross profit was \$15,679 (\$4,126 over budget).

GRAPEVINE/LA VINA RELATED ITEMS: Gross profit on related items was \$13,512, (\$1,122 over budget). Net loss was \$26,420 (under the budgeted loss by \$13,217).

During this period the Grapevine drew down from the Reserve Fund \$288,000 with a projected additional draw down of \$50,000 to \$100,000 for the third quarter.

RESERVE FUND: the Reserve Fund on 6/30/10 had a balance of \$5,723,892. The Fund is currently earning 2% and represents approximately 9.5 months of operating expenses.

GRAPEVINE BOARD ACTIONS:

Approved the implementation of a qualitative research survey; approved development of a strategy for digital distribution capability; agreed to forward to the Trustees' Literature Committee a memo asking that Grapevine information be added to the Big Book; that GSO staff associated with PI, CPC, TF and Corrections committees share information with Areas in order to further 12th Step work; agreed to release to the Chair and the General Service Board the Strategic Business Plan for review and discussion; recommended approval of midyear adjustment to La Viña budget; recommended approval for a full time La Viña editor position; agreed to send a letter to Delegates concerning support for Grapevine survey; approved the Executive Editor/Publisher position; approved quantitative reader survey; and approved La Viña pricing and discounts for bundling.

TRUSTEES' ARCHIVES COMMITTEE: Sub-committee formed to address committee consideration from the 2010 Conference Committee. The Conference committee requested that the section "Role of the Archives Committee" in the Archives Workbook be revised to include encouraging interest and understanding of the Archives Committees at the local level and also include information for Archives Committees on how to implement, establish and support local archives.

TRUSTEES' COMMITTEE ON CPC, TF/SPECIAL NEEDS: Agreed to include one-on-one formats for professionals be included in the CPC workbook per the 2010 Conference Committee Consideration; agreed to add language to the CPC Workbook re the use of the video "AA Cooperation with the Professional Community" per the Conference Committee Consideration; agreed that the Secretary will gather information resulting in endeavors for a draft service piece to be in the CPC kit and workbook about using Grapevine, La Viña, and La Vigne; requested Secretary collate AA literature that could be effected with changing name "Treatment Facilities Committees" to "Treatment Committees"; agreed to gather shared experience of carrying the message into other treatment settings including mental health facilities for inclusion in the Treatment Facilities Workbook; heard progress report on pamphlet for Alcoholics with Special Needs and will view a draft pamphlet at the 10/31/10 meeting.

TRUSTEES' COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS: The three Conference Advisory Actions have been forwarded to the Publications Department for implementation; staff member to provide draft that includes updated language to Corrections Workbook as proposed by Conference Corrections Committee; Subcommittee will review ninety stories for "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell" pamphlet and bring back a progress report at the 10/30/10 meeting.

TRUSTEES' INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE: A list of tentative trips for 2011-2011 were reviewed: New Zealand, Mexico twice and India; a subcommittee was formed to review the purpose and scope of international trips and make suggestions at the October meeting.

TRUSTEES' COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS/REGIONAL FORUMS: Chair expressed appreciation to Staff for their outstanding job at the 2010 International Convention, which had approximately 53,000 registered participants. 1000 people participated in about 250 AA meetings, panels, marathons and Big meetings; planning for Pacific, Eastern Canada, Southeast, and West Central Forums and an additional Regional Forums are under way; Local Forum for Area 92 approved for Sept 23-25, 2011; Local forum Area 40 approved for June, 2011.

TRUSTEES' COMMITTEE ON NOMINATING: Discussed various changes to nominating procedures; Discussed submission of candidacy; discussed the impact of Class A Trustees, which was tabled; a subcommittee was formed to recruit Class A Trustee candidates; Committee tabled discussion of Alternate Trustee positions.

TRUSTEES LITERATURE COMMITTEE: The Conference recommended that the pamphlet "The AA Member--Medications and Other Drugs" be returned to the Trustee's Literature Committee for additional discussion and report back; Subcommittee was formed to review and define the intent and scope of the pamphlet and report back on 10/31/10; The committee formed a subcommittee to bring a draft or progress report on literature that focuses on Spirituality and includes stories from atheists and agnostics to the October 2010 meeting; requested that a draft or progress report on "AA and the Armed Forces" be brought back from the subcommittee appointed by the chair and present report at the October 2010 meeting; the committee reviewed the booklet "Living Sober" and asked the Publications Dept. to review the booklet focusing on outdated language or practices and present draft in October 2010 meeting; Page proofs were received by the committee on the Service Manual for their review; the committee discussed publication of "This is your General Service Office" and suggested several changes and updates, then asked the Publications Department for careful revision and present a draft for review at the October 2010 meeting; agreed to table request from the Grapevine to include Grapevine information in the Big Book (on the cover and in the listing of pamphlets at the end of the book); asked for two Appointed Committee Members to help with TLC projects, expertise to include use of current technology and communication tools.

TRUSTEES' COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION: 2010 Membership Survey will be launched within the next few weeks; the video for young people called "Animation" will be translated into Spanish and French and available for distribution in October 2010; a subcommittee was formed to draft a policy regarding showing or not showing faces of actors who portray AA members in visual media; a subcommittee was formed to draft text on Anonymity in the Digital Age for pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity" and to develop an answer to the question "what shall I tell my loved ones about protecting the anonymity of AA members they may meet" for pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity"; a subcommittee was formed to consider developing Spanish and French language PSAs

for Spanish and French language stations; explore assignment of telecaster numbers to older PSAs in Canada; and develop plan to track older PSAs in the years when there are no PSAs being distributed; requested Grapevine to post the AA videos for Young people Project form on their website; request to Grapevine that announcement of AA videos be placed in the AA Grapevine and La Viña magazines; request to French magazine La Vigne an announcement regarding AA videos be placed in that magazine periodically; committee agreed to add a copy of the Grapevine, La Viña and La Vigne to the contents of the PI kit per the Consideration from the Conference Committee.

TRUSTEES COMMITTEE ON THE GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE: The committee discussed and noted the evaluations from the 60th GSC; committee forwarded two requests to Report and Charter: 1) remedy the Inconsistencies between the current Charter and the original Charter, and 2) recommend adding the Right of Petition and Appeal to the Charter; approved and forwarded the request that two members of the GSB of Peru attend the upcoming GSC; recommended that the phrase "requires a second" be added to the Floor Action portion of the summary of Conference Procedures; after discussion on request that the 61st GSC recognize La Vigne as the International French journal of AA, this was Forwarded to the Chair of the GSB.

AA WORLD SERVICES: Publications: Total distributions for the six months ended 6/30/10: 864,161 units compared to 1,488,758 in the same period last year; Big Book sales through the same period were 440,167 compared to 863,574 last year NOTE: this comparison was heavily affected by the price increases on 7/1/09; prices were approved for French-language and Spanish-language DVDs, and CDs, plus a French-language CD abridged 4th edition Big Book; reported Net Sales \$6,225,000 for the first six months of 2010 which was approximately 13% under budget; Contributions of \$2,964,000, which were about 2% more than budgeted, Operating expenses were \$6,305,600 which was 8% under budget; Owen J. Flanagan & Co. was appointed as the independent auditor for 2010; \$35,000 adjustment to budget for contracted services for tracking and distribution of the PSA "My World"; reported that development of AAWS literature in E format continued.

TRUSTEES' COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND BUDGETARY: Much of Committee's report was included in the Grapevine and AAWS financial reports, above.

OTHER: In addition to the above, there were two presentations on "Is the Membership survey providing AA and professionals with a thorough and useful enough overview of the fellowship?" Consensus was that there were questions about the validity, sampling process and reliability, but 42% of seated delegates stated "it is an adequate picture of the fellowship" and the pamphlet has been used for PI, CPC, Treatment and

Correction committee endeavors. Two Class B trustees and a Class A trustee shared their experience, strength, and hope. Three Past Class A trustees shared and I believe we are truly blessed to have their grace, expertise, love and devotion for the fellowship. Their presence, strength and wisdom is inspiring and positively affecting everyone.

Rod B.
Pacific Regional Trustee