

Highlights From A.A.W.S.

March 15, 2013

The A.A. World Services board met on March 15, at the General Service Office in New York, NY. Roberta L., chair of the A.A.W.S. Board, opened the meeting.

Visit of the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy

Board members were pleased to welcome Director Gil Kerlikowske, Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (the “Drug Czar”) to their meeting. The visit offered an opportunity for exchanging information and exploring ways to cooperate. The Director gave a brief history of the Office of National Drug Control, followed by a brief presentation from G.S.O. staff member Mary C. about A.A. and how A.A. cooperates with professionals, and an overview by Publishing Director Greg T. about A.A. literature which is available in 80 languages and in a variety of formats for those with special needs. This was followed by a brief question and answer session. Director Kerlikowske expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to meet with the board and looks forward to ongoing interaction with Alcoholics Anonymous.

Manager's Report

We said a final farewell to Gayle S. R. who retired last month, and welcomed new staff member Steve S. who began work as G.S.O. Staff in March. He will serve on the Treatment/Special Needs/Accessibilities desk replacing Mary D. who will move over to the Literature assignment.

Retired Staff member, Eileen G. has returned to G.S.O. on a part time, temporary basis to assist the Publishing Department to manage and evaluate international translations and licenses.

The Archives Department is making available the selection of five black and white photographs approved by trustees' Archives Committee to be used by A.A. archivists or A.A. groups for the purpose of setting up local displays.

Staff

After the meeting of the General Service Board on February 4, staff prepared background for their Conference committees and mailed it; background was accessible on the Conference Dashboard on February 15.

The annual Anonymity Letter is being prepared for distribution to the media and will go out before the General Service Conference. The P.I. desk is also coordinating mailing a letter regarding cooperation in maintaining the anonymity of A.A. speakers to all known companies that distribute and/or sell A.A. speaker talks.

The spring issue of *Sharing from Behind the Walls* came out, and included experience from inmates on creative ways to conduct A.A. meetings and work the Steps while incarcerated. The Correctional Facilities A.A. Group Handbook was updated and posted on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web Site.

Services

The revised privacy policy for G.S.O.'s Web site will be presented for board review at the June 2013 meeting. The board will be looking at the possible need for an established procedure for addressing any breaches of confidential information, in accordance with legal requirements.

The Services Committee approved a proposal for reorganizing information on the Web site regarding how to order A.A. literature, including a catalog with pricing and a downloadable literature order form. A link to the soon-to-be-launched Online Store will be added to this page when the store goes live.

The Web site redesign is moving forward, and will simplify access to information on the site for users.

Publishing

Sales were slightly above budget for the first two months of the year. Total gross sales through February 2013 were \$2,324,610 compared to \$ 2,169,892 budgeted for the period, up 7.14%. (This is slightly above last year's actual gross sales for the same period, \$2,271,705.)

Total distribution of all print books for the period was very strong, with 325,033 units distributed, compared to 310,434 units last year). Unit distribution of the Big Book (all print editions) was 173,635, compared to 169, 237 units last year). For *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, 66,802 units were distributed through February 2013 compared to 64,163 through February 2012.

Finance

It was noted that for 2012, contributions to G.S.O. were up 4.7% over 2011. Directors discussed options for revenue strategy going forward, including options of literature price increases; 75th anniversary edition of the Big Book; and ongoing self-support efforts.

Other

The Board discussed the request from A.A. Grapevine to share contact lists. A.A.W.S. agreed that for any list over which the A.A.W.S. Board has authority, the board will adopt, in accordance with the best-practice, an "opt-in" access policy. The A.A.W.S. Board acknowledged that it has no authority over registration information for Regional Forums and International Conventions and suggested that A.A. Grapevine forward their request for contact information for registrants of A.A. Regional Forums and International Conventions to the Trustees' committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums.

The A.A.W.S. Board discussed a request to share A.A.W.S. and AAGV Board minutes and agreed that the A.A.W.S. Board will share the draft minutes of their meetings with the A.A.W.S., Grapevine and General Service Boards.

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