

July 2008 Quarterly Board Report

Madeleine P.

Pacific Region Trustee

Greetings to All Pacific Region Delegates

I know we will be seeing each other in a couple of weeks but I wanted to give you a heads up on the happenings at the July Board weekend. There were quite a few extra meetings and folks going extra innings but with the search for non-trustee directors, GSB trustees, a new GSB chair and a new General Manager, one would expect this to be a busy time.

AAWS

So, beginning with AAWS, total distribution of all books through June 2008 was 1,089,218, up 2% from the same time in 2007. Total AA purchases amounted to 884,172 units while non-AA's accounted for 205,046 units or 19% of the total.

In the second quarter of 2008, translations were completed on the following works: A.A. Fact Sheet in Vietnamese, A Brief Guide to A.A. in Vietnamese, Alcoholics Anonymous in Croatian, Alcoholics Anonymous in Greek, Alcoholics Anonymous in Malagasy (Madagascar), A Newcomer Asks in Vietnamese, As Bill Sees It in Greek, Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers in Greek, Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers in Russian, Living Sober in Croatian, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions in Maltese (Malta), and Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions in Sinhala (Sri Lanka).

Financial results for AAWS were as follows: Contributions received for the first six months of \$3,087,000 were \$16,000 (.5%) more than budgeted and \$85,000 (2.8%) greater than the first six months of 2007. Resulting total revenue (gross profit from literature sales, contributions, and interest earned on cash flow) was \$6,774,000. Total revenue was \$221,300 more than budgeted and \$210,000 more than the same time last year. Unaudited net profit for the first six months of \$43,500 compares with a budgeted loss of \$74,000.

Internationally, we have traveled to Cuba, Ukraine, Costa Rica, Germany, Great Britain, Trinidad and Tobago, Croatia, Turkey, Greece, Lithuania, Austria and Hungary.

AAGV

Total average monthly circulation of the Grapevine (print and audio) is 107,967; average monthly circulation of the Digital Archive is 3,064 and average bimonthly circulation of La Vina is 10,642. The website received 61,411 visitors in June, up 52%. YTD, the AAGV has distributed 37,537 books, 9,362 CDs and 8,217 other items. By the end of the quarter, there were 4,409 Grapevine and La Vina representatives.

AAGV Financial Report: For the six month period ended June 30, 2008, the AAGV Corporation realized a loss of \$66,168 compared to a budgeted loss of \$60,387. This is due to an unexpected and ever increasing postage increase.

La Vina Financial Report: Net loss for the six month period ended June 30, 2008 was \$40,013. This was behind the budgeted loss of \$33,686 by \$6,327. Again, postage increases and a slight decline in subscriptions accounted for the increase.

AAGV and the GSC: At the Conference Committee's request, the Grapevine is making plans to produce a portable GvR Handbook similar to the recently revised RLV Handbook in size and format and to update the AA Grapevine History booklet. These are scheduled for publication in March 2009. The current AAGV Handbook will continue to be available as a free download at the AAGV website.

A final note on the AAGV – a reminder that since 1947, the AAGV has netted a profit of \$646,037. Bill W. was very adamant that he wanted the fellowship to have a magazine that reflected their diversity of opinion and experiences – the AA Grapevine. And if the AAGV had kept pace with the cost of inflation, we would be charging \$26.67 for a yearly subscription, not the \$20 currently being charged. And that was only for an 8 page manuscript, not a 64 page magazine. It is time for the fellowship to pay the freight for what it costs and for the burden of that recovery tool to be taken off of the backs of the employees who produce it for the fellowship. “We pay our own way!”

Archives

It is with much regret I let you know that our archivist, Amy F., has tendered her resignation in July. She is moving to be closer to an ill family member and she will be missed. She brought so much to the position in her short tenure and I know everyone benefited from her contributions.

There will be major construction going on in our Archives Department, beginning this Fall and into the early Spring so this will cause possible delays in archival requests. Be patient. The renovations are sorely needed.

Also, the revisions to the Archives Workbook have been implemented and will soon be posted to the aa.org web site. The new workbooks are planned to be translated into Spanish and French and are being considered for posting to the aa.org web site, rather than producing printing of these items.

Conference

Probably the biggest topic for this committee (on which I serve this year) was the new practice from this past GSC of “commit to committee. The chair has appointed a subcommittee to examine the process of Floor Actions at the GSC.

The GSO GM reported on the 2010 Conference site selection process and noted that management continues to investigate possible alternate sites. One would think NY would be plentiful with hotels we could hold our conference but not so. We require an inordinate amount of break out rooms for our conference committees and there are not very many hotels available that fit our needs. Our current hotel is raising its rates 35% or about \$100/night per guest when

our contract runs out. A quick look at the math makes it obvious why we have to seriously consider other options. This committee also noted that there was much discussion at the GSC to keep the conference in New York City but noted very few delegates actually came down to the offices and toured the facilities. The GM will bring a recommendation to the trustees' Conference Committee at their November 1, 2008 meeting.

CPC/Treatment Facilities

A subcommittee was appointed to discuss the possible creation of a "fact sheet" for drug court professionals.

A rough cut of the video Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous will be reviewed at the November 2008 meeting.

Finance

The committee discussed the Conference advisory action "that the trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee gather input from the Fellowship on the benefits and liabilities, both spiritual and practical of fully funding GSO Services to the Fellowship (GSO functional expenses) by the voluntary contributions of AA members and groups and that this information be forwarded to the 2009 Conference Committee on Finance." After reviewing the background material provided, and understanding that this may be a multi year discussion, and hearing that some Areas are ready to discuss the topic, the Trustees Finance Committee determined that it would like to clarify issues and insure adequate information is provided to the Fellowship for discussion. A subcommittee will develop a work plan to present at the next meeting. (This would be similar to the process used when we discussed whether to have a Class B Chair of the GSB.)

International Conventions/Regional Forums

The 2020 International Convention city visits have been completed and more will be revealed.....

Also, the Evaluation Questionnaires completed at the regional forums have had dismal completion by attendees. Please encourage those attending in Spokane to complete the evaluations. We don't know what needs to be changed if no one completes the forms.

Literature

The revised draft of the pamphlet, "AA for the Native North American" will be available at the November committee meeting. Also, the draft revised pamphlet, "The AA Member – Medications and Other Drugs," will be reviewed by a subcommittee and their report discussed at the committee's November 1 meeting.

The committee's scope has been expanded to include oversight to reviewing all changes to the AA Service Manual.

Nominating

This committee remains busy as there are 5 trustees rotating this year, including the chair of the GSB. 5 candidates were interviewed by this committee at this board weekend.

Public Information

The committee reported they continue to have about 4-6 valid video submissions for the Young People's Video Project. This committee remains committed to this project and will continue to request submissions from the fellowship.

Compensation

The committee met separately with the two compensation consultants for the two operating boards, AAWS and AAGV. This was to review the reports prepared for both boards, as required by the Compensation Committee. These reports were detailed salary surveys of all positions at both AAWS and AAGV. In addition, AAGV had a formal compensation policy program developed by their consultant. The reports concluded that the current salary levels for both corporations are largely within comparable competitive levels. There were two positions at AAGV that fell below the target range but for reasons that account satisfactorily for those differences.

General Manager Search Committee

Candidates for the GM positions will be interviewed by the full board at the October board meeting. As a member of this committee, I would love to tell you more but then I would have to kill you. (that's a joke) No really, I would have to kill you!

This report is to give you a brief overview of what transpired over the board weekend. It is by no means the complete details but you will be receiving AAWS highlights and AAGV updates soon. If there is anything I have not discussed, please call me. I would be more than happy to catch you up on more details.

As always, it is such a pleasure to serve with all of you and look forward to fellowship in Spokane!