

Area 31 Committee Meeting – August 14, 2013

The Area Chair, Mark N., opened the meeting at 7:30 PM with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer and a reading from Chapter 5 of the Service Manual (p. S 44).

Secretary's Report:

- 🕒 Secretary read the old and new business from the 7/10/2013 Area 31 meeting minutes.
- 🕒 Motion to accept: passes.
- 🕒 Asked all present to pick up new Area 31 Directories after giving their reports.
- 🕒 Asked anyone interested in engaging the band called SLICK to perform at a sober dance to email back to their representative and copy Area secretary. If no responses are sent Secretary will send a response indicating no current interest.

Treasurer's Report:

- 🕒 Beginning July Balance: \$4,056.26; Group Contributions: \$1,162.33; Other Deposits: \$0; Total Area Expenses: (\$654.94); Closing July Balance: \$4,563.65 plus Prudent Reserve: \$6,000 = \$10,563.65 Total Funds Available.
- 🕒 Motion to accept: passes.
- 🕒 Further comments:
 - 🕒 Contributions in July 2013 down from July 2012 by \$404.08. July YTD 2013 down from July YTD 2012 by \$556.54
 - 🕒 22 contributions in July 2013, 11 less than in July 2012
 - 🕒 Average per group contribution in July 2013 was \$52.83
 - 🕒 Reminder to committees and districts to review your budget line items requested in November of 2012 and plan accordingly.

Registrar's Report:

- 🕒 No news
- 🕒 Reminder to get any changes to Jack at the Area meeting, by email or by phone (both are listed in the directory).

Area Archivist Report: not present

ADHOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

Handbook Committee:

- 🕒 Discussed under New Business section of this meeting

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Accessibility: no report

Archives:

- 🕒 7 in attendance
- 🕒 Archives will be bringing Ann H back to give committee more insights gained by her experiences in the Ukraine.
- 🕒 Roundtable discussion subject was how to punch up the Archive boards. Suggestions were recorded by Jamie who will type up and distribute at next month's meeting.
- 🕒 Gave a tour of Archive office to new reps.
- 🕒 Archives committee will create a checklist of what to do when bringing Archive boards to an AA meeting (e.g., Who do I see? Where do they go? What do I say and when? etc.)
- 🕒 Trip to the Three Rivers meeting will take place on August 19th. Trip to Greenfield planned for August 23rd. Also, in the pipeline is the East Mountain group wants the Archives Committee to speak at their Anniversary meeting on August 23rd.

Area 31 Committee Meeting – August 14, 2013

CPC:

- 🕒 In Attendance- 11 (Highest it's been since February)
- 🕒 Started- 730p Ended- 8:36p
- 🕒 We thank Brian for his Area 31 report
- 🕒 5 assignment reports were given, each person proffering a potential contact
- 🕒 Paul H graced us with his presence and was able to answer questions and give valuable feedback. He and Dick also got the committee a commitment; Sept 20, 2013 11a-3pm at the Recovery high school in Springfield, hosting an info table. Thank you!
- 🕒 This month's assignment: Get in contact with Tye and Dick. Open lines of communication. Receive the format of the presentation from Tye, review, understand and bring back to the next meeting ready to discuss!

Grapevine:

- 🕒 6 GVRs in attendance (2 of whom were new).
- 🕒 Discussed how to register, some basics of how to get started, simple ideas to bring back to their groups to help promote the Grapevine.
- 🕒 Boards are available for anniversaries. Planning to rehab the boards in time for the Mass State convention.
- 🕒 Reminder to sign up for GV email with inspirational quotes. It's free!

Public Information:

- 🕒 Roll Call – Taken at 7:32pm -10 members
- 🕒 Filled September 2013 Commitments
 - 🕒 **Radio Show:** Mondays - arrive at 5 PM, Basketball Hall of Fame
 - 🕒 **Phoenix Academy:** meets 3rd Wednesday. 7 PM @ 15 Mulberry St., Springfield.
 - 🕒 **IOP:** meets 2nd Thursday 1 PM. Start Program has moved to the second floor of 8 Atwood Dr., Northampton, MA 01060 (next to The Clarian Hotel).
- 🕒 Discussed Committee Inventory to take place in September 2013
- 🕒 Times and Dates
 - 🕒 Possibly a Saturday?
 - 🕒 Possible later in the year
- 🕒 Agenda – Brian D. will delegate.
- 🕒 DISCUSSION WAS TABLED TILL NEXT MONTH DUE TO LACK OF MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE
- 🕒 Discussion took place regarding different areas we could bring the PI committee
- 🕒 Hospitals
- 🕒 VA

Area 31 Committee Meeting – August 14, 2013

🕒 Nursing Homes

🕒 NEW BUSINESS

🕒 Group voted to have a Committee Inventory on Sunday, September 22, 2013 at 10am at 474 Pleasant St, Holyoke Ma.

🕒 We need to get permission for the room through Mark N, then publish announcement. Perhaps the Webmaster can have announcement placed on website home page.

🕒 Garrett is contacting E. Longmeadow H.S.

🕒 Sam is contacting Easthampton H.S.

🕒 Paul P. gave resignation notice as he is relocating with family to Florida.

🕒 Garret gave brief demonstration of how to speak at a PI Commitment.

Website Committee:

🕒 Attending were the Webmaster (Bob), Co-chair (Carl), Christine WMYPAA Christine came from WMYPAA Committee to gather information on the Website Committee. They are looking at changing their bylaws to include a representative to the website committee. We spent the time to review the history of the formation of the committee, as well as bringing her up to date with the committees work so far. There was also some discussion as to the possible roles that a representative could take.

🕒 Afterword there was some discussion brought forward by Bob as to changing the committee's e-mail address to make it read the committee as opposed to the committee chair which will bring it in line with the addresses of the other committees in that area. There was talk as to how to make this a seamless transition. It was decided that this was a good idea, and will be followed up on.

🕒 We did a little work on the committee description for the handbook. Sally was unable to attend, and we decided to wait until next month when she will bring a draft to work on.

🕒 We would like to ask that when submitting reports for inclusion on the site that the committees and officers please edit the materials prior to submission for tradition concerns such as last names etc. This will help the Webmaster with providing a timelier posting, and will help in sharing the work load that this creates. Thank you. We also, we encourage all committees and officers to look at their pages and help with content so as to make this a fuller representation of the message that we wish to carry as an area.

🕒 The next priorities for the committee after the handbook submissions will be in order.

1) Policies/ criteria for materials being submitted

2) Tutorial to assist in back up to the webmaster

🕒 The next meeting will be August 28, 2013

Webmaster:

Summary

	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Viewed traffic *	442	780	2,859	8,593	157.23 MB
		(1.76 visits/visitor)	(3.66 Pages/Visit)	(11.01 Hits/Visit)	(206.41 KB/Visit)
Not viewed traffic *			4,578	5,724	113.98 MB

* Not viewed traffic includes traffic generated by robots, worms, or replies with special HTTP status codes.

Connect to site from

Origin	Pages	Percent	Hits	Percent
Direct address / Bookmark / Link in email...	722	84.1 %	761	84.1 %
Links from an Internet Search Engine	31	3.6 %	38	4.2 %
- Google	30 / 37			
- MyWebSearch	1 / 1			

Area 31 Committee Meeting – August 14, 2013

Links from an external page (other web sites except search engines)	104	12.1 %	104	11.5 %
- http://www.aa.org/lang/en/redirect.cfm	72/72			
- http://www.westernmassaa.org/Area31_Service_Committee.html	9/9			
- http://www.theagapecenter.com/AAinUSA/Massachusetts.htm	6/6			
- http://aa.org/lang/en/redirect.cfm	3/3			
- http://a-klassika.ru	2/2			
- http://en.picjoke.net	2/2			
- http://komsomolsk.pol.slando.ua/obyavlenie/halat-svetlana-na-mol...	2/2			
- http://www.reitzelexteriors.com	1/1			
- http://www.westernmassaa.org/site/8b6307b656ab4c7c88fe66ba300..	1/1			
- http://fatj.zeka1.ru/2013-9-16/22.html	1/1			
- http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org/lang/en/redirect.cfm	1/1			
- http://www.westernmassaa.org/site/mobile	1/1			
- http://www.westernmassaa.org/Area_31_Round-Up.html	1/1			
- http://silkworth.net/aa/attention/area31aa.html	1/1			
- http://www.usrecovery.info/AA/Massachusetts.htm	1/1			
Unknown Origin	1	0.1 %	1	0.1 %

Our standing in the search engines is basically unchanged, Area31aa.org is within the top four results listed.

Western Mass Round Up: no report

Invited Committees

Institutions:

- 🕒 3 - New Institutions Reps (IGR's) received Institutions Committee handbook -The Guidelines and Job Descriptions along with Literature In Prisons document.
- 🕒 \$\$ Available for A.A. General Conference Approved Literature - \$1,308.53
- 🕒 BTG - Total # of calls 3 1Man / 0 Women (2 calls inquiring about BTG program) 1 call resulted in the individual getting to a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous within 24 hours of his call.
- 🕒 New Business: - Brief report on Committee work
- 🕒 The Liaisons are working vigorously to make contact and follow up calls with the appropriate staff within the facilities we serve. Steady progress is being made.
- 🕒 The Open Meeting list is looking good. Many vacant slots are being filled along with current and up to date information for Sponsors and Alternate Sponsors.
- 🕒 Opportunities for Service: Come and join us! Many opportunities to be a part of and share with fellow recovering alcoholics who continue to extend a hand to the next sick and suffering alcoholic.

Western Mass Intergroup: no report

Berkshire Intergroup (BIG):

- 🕒 Thanks to the area and district for attending our committee meeting and helping to keep us informed and providing some guidance.
- 🕒 Meet second Monday of each month at 7PM, at 152 North Street, Pittsfield, MA.
- 🕒 12 people in attendance, 11 voting with 7 groups represented.
- 🕒 Group contributions were up for the month of July and looking good for August

Area 31 Committee Meeting – August 14, 2013

- ⌚ Still looking for office volunteers for Monday thru Friday 1:30 PM to 5 PM. Volunteers to have six months of sobriety.
- ⌚ Volunteer needed to chair the Alkathon committee.
- ⌚ Ad Hoc Committees and/or open action items: Joint Committee (District 3 and BIG) met on 8/12/13 to review groups that have no contact information. Info sheets given to Mark and Eric/Larry to contact identified groups. Also discussed was using the Northern Berkshire Group picnic, which will be held on 9/28/13, as an opportunity to discuss service and encourage participation in the district and Berkshire Intergroup.

WMYPAA:

- ⌚ Met 8-10-13 with about 15 in attendance.
- ⌚ Will host a softball tournament at the Intergroup Picnic. People who want to play can bring a glove and likely will be able to play.
- ⌚ Bus trip to GSO will take place on 9/6. Tom has 3 tickets left.
- ⌚ Harvest Bonfire is planned for 10/12 (the Saturday of Fall Assembly weekend). It will begin at 4pm and will include Potluck dinner, 2 speakers and 2 or 3 bands. Rain date is 10/19.
- ⌚ Planning a Big Book Workshop for November – no date determined yet.
- ⌚ December WMYPAA looking to hold Ice Skating event.
- ⌚ Joe, Institutions Rep for WMYPAA, is working on establishing a Bay State commitment. It will take a few months to clear authorizations.
- ⌚ Kristine from MSCYPAA came to the meeting looking for support from WMYPAA planning and helping at the conference.
- ⌚ Will make an amendment to bylaws to create a Website Rep position. No candidate for the position has been elected yet.

DISTRICT REPORTS:

District 1:

- ⌚ Better Life Group now has a beginners' discussion meeting held concurrent with its speaker discussion meeting in a separate room. It is hoped this will alleviate crowding. Both meetings are on Saturday 7:30 to 8:30 PM at Sacred Heart Church.
- ⌚ Original Downtown Group announced changes in group positions; notably, chairperson and treasurer. ODG keeps their detox commitment but does not do intra group commitments. Attendance and cash flow are good. Group is trying not to fold.
- ⌚ After Dinner Group reported an influx of 4 – 5 new members (brought in by an existing member). Still need service positions filled. Meeting has use of the air conditioned auditorium during the summer but will return to the cellar meeting space in September, where set up and break down issues may still pose a challenge without more regularly attending members.
- ⌚ East Springfield Group is experiencing a drop in attendance due to heat and no AC. However, collection percentage per capita is good. Group is doing incoming and outgoing commitments. Pie chart contributions are being made.
- ⌚ Trials and Smiles attendance and collections still good. Monthly commitment to Hope Center as well as incoming/outgoing commitments are ongoing. Membership is active and all service positions are filled.

District 2:

- ⌚ 21 GSRs in attendance. Great Meeting!
- ⌚ 2 new GSRs. One came with sponsor who is acting as Alternate GSR for the same group. This was a good example of service sponsorship.

Area 31 Committee Meeting – August 14, 2013

- ⌚ Consensus on the Bonding of the Area Treasurer position was not to do it.
- ⌚ Workshops for Fall Assembly:
 - ⌚ 11 voted for Area Inventory
 - ⌚ 9 voted for Duties of the Group
- ⌚ Discussed the importance of reading the Service Manual.
- ⌚ Discussed conducting a Forum with either Berkshire or Western Mass Intergroup. We have \$300 budgeted for such an event. How should we use it?
- ⌚ Discussed whether or not we are being self-supporting if the GSR pays for his/her GSR packet.
- ⌚ Discussed visiting hospitals

District 3: no report

District 4:

- ⌚ 12 groups were represented at the 7/18 meeting.
- ⌚ Chapman Group in Greenfield will hold its Anniversary meeting on the 23rd of August.
- ⌚ Sponsorship/Ask It Basket Workshop has been scheduled for September 21st from 1 – 4 pm at 93 Chapman Street, Greenfield (the Grapevine Building). We've been offered a 3 hour block of time for \$50 (meaning 1 hour will be free). Cannot start set up until 11:30. Left as is for now knowing that Grapevine understands we need time to set up and clean up. Agreed on an approximate agenda:
 - ⌚ 2 to 3 speakers (10 – 15 minutes each)
 - ⌚ Break with refreshments
 - ⌚ Discussion using Ask It Basket
- ⌚ GSRs are looking for speakers and designing flyers. When flyers are ready, Christa will send an electronic copy to Beth for email distribution.
- ⌚ Workshop Agenda will be finalized and voted on at the next meeting.
- ⌚ Reinstated the practice of one GSR preparing to present and lead the discussion on the Tradition and another GSR to do the same for the Concept of the month at each District Meeting.

Area 31 Committee Meeting – August 14, 2013

District 5:

- ⌚ 12 GSRs present – 1 new GSR and 1 new Alternate GSR
- ⌚ District 5 continues discussion of the Service Manual/Tradition, which is taking place monthly at our meetings based on a 2 yr. rotation schedule. Chapter 5 (The Area Committee) and Tradition 8 were August's topics. Steve - GSR led that discussion. Service Manuals continue to be provided to new GSR's along with our beginner's packet.
- ⌚ Visitors: Brian (Delegate) ~ Eddie (Intergroup) brought intergroup information and gave a reminder about the Annual Intergroup Picnic (Aug 18th) ~ Brian updated the district of upcoming events and invited all GSR's/DCM's to participate in the up-coming Fall Assembly. Brian mentioned that GSO is looking to fill a non-trustee Director Position (Grapevine) ~
- ⌚ Needs / Concerns / Ideas for outreach:
 - ⌚ Monson Green Street has a committee discussing changing the format for both meetings (Beginners and Regular Meetings). They will be celebrating their 33rd Anniversary on Thurs, Aug 15th
 - ⌚ The Chicopee Group (Evening Speaker Meeting) has been poorly attended, could use support.
- ⌚ GSR's had asked their Groups what Workshops they might like to see at the Fall Assembly ~ there was no feedback returned from those discussions. Our outreach to our District's dark groups hasn't produced much response. Many have updated their information; however some have requested no visits from the District. Our Secretary did return and will be able to finish her commitment. Our next meeting will be on Labor Day (Sept 2, 2013).
- ⌚ October elections – GSRs had questions about the length of the term for LCM and District Secretary. Area Committee members stated that the District can decide if they want these positions to be held for 1 or 2 years by the same individual.

District 6:

- ⌚ Only 3 in attendance (averaging 10 lately)
- ⌚ GSRs discussed slowdown in attendance at their meetings during the summer.
- ⌚ Much discussion about old timers not coming to a meeting they used to frequent due to changes agreed upon by the group instead of attending the business meeting to voice their concerns.
- ⌚ Workshop will be held September 7, 2013 on 3 topics
- ⌚ Reaching out to the Newcomer
- ⌚ How to conduct a Group Business Meeting
- ⌚ The Role of the Group Treasurer
- ⌚ Flyers will be printed in color and also emailed to Chairperson of WM Intergroup and Area 31 Secretary for email distribution.

Delegate's Remarks:

- ⌚ Delegate shared from the "Highlights from AAWS" newsletters of 6-21-2013 and 7-25-2013.
- ⌚ Attached are both newsletters in their entirety.

Alternate Delegate Remarks:

- ⌚ 50th Mass State Convention will be held this year from November 9 – 11. There is still time to get in on the planning of the event. The next meeting of the Planning committee will be held on and will be an envelope stuffing Pizza Party. If you want to attend, meet to car pool from Plantation Inn in Chicopee between 4:45 and 5:05 on Tuesday September 24th.
- ⌚ Distributed registration forms to DCMs.

Area 31 Committee Meeting – August 14, 2013

Area Chair Remarks:

🕒 Service Commitments: none scheduled

Area 31 Committee Meeting – August 14, 2013

Old Business:

- ⌚ It was the sense of the committee that election of officers should take place on Sunday October 13th of Fall Assembly weekend.
- ⌚ The Chairperson asked for input on the Agenda he is charged with setting for Saturday of Fall Assembly weekend. He suggested we could either do an Area Inventory or a combination of workshops with the following topics: GSR presentation, DCM workshop, Chair/Secretary/Treasurer workshop, Delegate Panel.
- ⌚ Discussion included the following points:
- ⌚ The last inventory was conducted at the Fall Assembly of 2011.
- ⌚ An Area inventory can be conducted at a specially called Assembly (i.e., neither Fall nor Spring but a third assembly specifically for an inventory)
- ⌚ Content of an Area inventory is guided discussions in groups on whether or not we are fulfilling our purpose. Each Committee and the Districts in general will be addressed in breakout groups.
- ⌚ Area Inventory can serve as a model for District inventories.
- ⌚ Any suggestions for change coming out of the Area inventory will be placed on the Agenda for the next Area meeting in order to collect group conscience around that suggested change.
- ⌚ It was the sense of the Area Committee that the Fall Assembly Agenda should be an Area 31 Inventory with an Ask It Basket.

New Business:

- ⌚ Changes to the Area Handbooks: Chairperson distributed a handout indicating where changes were made and what they were. He stated that 95% of the changes were address or committee changes.
- ⌚ He asked Area Committee members to review the changes compared to the 2011 wording and content and bring all feedback to the September meeting.
- ⌚ CPC Chair said she heard that the "If You Are A Professional" pamphlet was being revised and asked how Area 31 CPC could provide input to that process. Delegate explained that the General Service Conference decides on changes to literature. Input to that process can be offered to the applicable desk at the GSO (in this case the CPC desk) up until early to mid-December. Decisions on changes to any literature will be made at the conference in April 2014.

Meeting closed at 9:25 pm with the Responsibility Declaration.

Highlights From A.A.W.S.

June 21, 2013

She extended thanks to the Support Services Team who have welcomed four large groups in May for a total of 135 people.

Because regional directories are not being printed, our Records staff is able to complete a sweep of the Primary and Secondary contacts in group records. The anticipated result of this project is to update our current group records to include valid group contacts, greatly reducing the amount of returned group mail, postage and printing costs.

The A.A. World Services board met on June 21, at the General Service Office in New York, NY. Newly elected chair of the A.A.W.S. Board, J. Gary L. opened the meeting.

Manager's Report

General manager Phyllis H. reported that Adrienne B. will retire at the end of November of this year. We have moved forward with a search for an additional staff person to come on board later in the year – a communication regarding this matter was sent to Conference members and included in the summer issue of *Box 4-5-9*.

Recently, the Archives staff began a project of photographing all of the early Big Book collection and a small number of other early A.A.W.S. books held in the Archives. The photographs are to be added to the Archives library catalog for the purpose of building a comprehensive Big Book catalog.

In early May, Mary Clare L., on the International assignment, and Phyllis traveled to the Ukraine for their 15th General Service Conference. Although there are fewer than 90 groups in all of the Ukraine, the energy and excitement of the membership has created a vital and growing A.A. structure.

The Northeast Regional Forum was held in June in Cromwell, CT, with 582 members in attendance. Highlights included a presentation on A.A.'s history made by G.S.O.'s (nonalcoholic) Archivist, Michelle Mirza; and a presentation on "AA around the World," by newly elected trustee-at-large/U.S. Bob W.

Staff

G.S.O. staff is preparing to rotate in July. They are finalizing rotation memos, and sharing about responsibilities with the staff who will rotate into their assignments on July 15.

Following the 2013 General Service Conference, the 2013 Advisory Actions, Additional Committee Considerations and Floor Actions in English, French and Spanish were posted on the Conference Dashboard and distributed, via Email, to Conference members of the 63rd GSC. Additionally, the summer issue of *Box 4-5-9*, which is the Conference issue, is posted on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site.

The summer issue of *Sharing from Behind the Walls* was published. Staff met with Canadian corrections committees to discuss extending the reach of G.S.O.'s Corrections Correspondence Service to Canada (or to discuss implementation of a Canadian Corrections Correspondence Service.)

An Activity Update was sent to Central/Intergroup Offices providing information about this year's General Service Conference, the annual Anonymity Memo to the Media, and recent A.A.W.S. Highlights.

A sweep is being conducted to update G.S.O.'s information about foreign language meetings (other than English, French and Spanish) in the U.S. and Canada.

Services

Highlights From A.A.W.S.

June 21, 2013

The Board approved the Services Committee's recommendation that G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site's *Quarterly Report* (January – March 2013) be forwarded to the trustees' Committee on Public Information.

The Board approved the Services Committee's recommendation that a calendar function be added to the *Daily Reflections* page on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site, so that visitors can navigate to all dates/entries.

The Board approved the Services Committee's recommendation that existing public service announcements be posted in a mobile-friendly format on the Web site, in order to make these items available on the widest number of digital platforms.

Publishing

Total gross sales through May 2013 were \$5,596,016, which was \$142,764 (2.70%) over budget and \$133,306 over last year.

The A.A.W.S. Online Store site for bulk orders has been implemented and operational since May 8. The consumer online sales Web site is in progress; further testing scheduled for mid-summer; expectations are that this section of the store will be operational late summer. In accordance with the Advisory Action regarding the distribution of A.A.W.S. books through third-party vendors, the Publishing Department has discussed with a number of vendors their policies, terms and conditions for such distribution. No decision has yet been made on which distributor(s) will be engaged.

The Publishing Department is moving forward with the editorial and production requirements of the facsimile edition of the first printing of the First Edition of the Big Book, to be published in April 2014.

The Board priced the American Sign Language DVD of "A.A. For the Alcoholic With Special Needs" and the English, Spanish and French audio versions of this pamphlet on CDs at \$5.00 each. The Board also recommended that the concept of a Souvenir Book for the 2015 International Convention be forwarded to the trustees' Committee on International Conventions/ Regional Forums.

Finance

For the first three months of 2013, contributions from A.A. groups and members of \$1,580,530 were \$64,302 under budget. Gross profit on literature sales of \$2,058,435 was \$105,836 over budget. Total expenses of \$3,613,854 were \$3,848 over budget. Net income totaled \$25,216 compared with a three month budgeted loss of \$12,380.

Other

The Board discussed the process for sharing group contact Email information with A.A. Grapevine, and will review a final procedure for approval at their July meeting. In addition, the Board reviewed the initiatives from the General Service Board plan pertaining to A.A.W.S., and discussed implementation.

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Highlights From A.A.W.S.

July 25, 2013

The A.A. World Services Board met on Thursday July 25, 2013, at the General Service Office in New York, NY. Chair of the A.A.W.S. Board, J. Gary L. opened the meeting and welcomed visitors David Morris, Class A Trustee and General Service Board Treasurer and Bill F., West Central Region Trustee.

Manager's Report

General manager Phyllis H. reported that Staff rotation has been completed and expressed gratitude for everyone's patience as Staff transitions into their new assignments while helping their colleagues who rotated into their previous assignment get up to speed.

Eva S. and Julio E. coordinated the A.A. meetings held at the 2013 Al-Anon International Convention which took place in Vancouver, British Columbia, July 5-7, 2013. The theme was "Celebrating Worldwide Unity." Of the approximate 4000 attendees, 400 or so were A.A. members. Eva and Julio had a wonderful showing of 90 A.A. volunteers to help them out.

G.S.O. 2015 International Convention coordinator and alternate, were joined by the other members of the 2025 International Convention Site Selection team in Vancouver which – along with St. Louis and Montreal -- was one of the three cities the Conference selected as finalists to be considered for the site of the 2025 International Convention. It was reported that visits to all three cities went very well and that a selection will be made in the near future.

This is the year of A.A. Zonal Meetings, and Greg T. and Mary Clare L. journeyed to Irkutsk, Russia in Siberia to attend the 2013 Asia Oceania Service Meeting (AOSM) which was held July 19-21, 2013.

Along with Bill N. (A.A.W.S. Trustee- Director), Rick W. traveled to Phoenix, Arizona, July 11-14, 2013, where they both participated in the annual International Convention of Young People in A.A. (ICYPAA) Convention. Close to 4300 members attended.

Staff

As mentioned above, most of the G.S.O. staff rotated into their new assignments on July 15, 2013. The assignments of recently hired staff members Clay R. and Steve S., as well as moves made by Mary D. and Adrienne B. to accommodate our new arrivals, remained the same.

Services

The Board approved the Services Committee's recommendation that G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site's Quarterly Report (April – June 2013) be forwarded to the trustees' Committee on Public Information with one minor editorial correction.

Publishing

Total gross sales for the first six months, through June 2013 are \$6,484,189 which is \$45,331 over estimate for the period and behind last year's gross sales for this same period by \$9,300.

The Board priced the 75th Anniversary Commemorative Edition of the first edition, first printing of *Alcoholics Anonymous* (to be published April 2014) at \$12.00.

Highlights From A.A.W.S.

July 25, 2013

At the request of multiple French-speaking area delegates for A.A.W.S. to produce an anniversary sticker to be added to the jacket cover of the French translation of the *Big Book*, the Board approved the production of the requested sticker to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of *Les Alcooliques Anonymes*.

As a result of continual and increasing requests from inmates for a large print format of the abridged Big Book, the Board approved developing the concept of a large print version of the existing soft cover abridged edition *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

Finance

For the first six months of 2013, contributions from A.A. groups and members of \$3,200,000 were \$28,579 over budget. Gross profit on literature sales of \$4,023,055 was \$165,501 over budget. Total expenses of \$7,636,443 were \$35,078 over budget. Net loss totaled \$412,817 compared with a six month budgeted loss of \$571,718.

Other

The Board discussed and approved the final implementation process for sharing group contact Email information with A.A. Grapevine. Prior to initiating, email notification memos will be sent out to area delegates, DCMs, G.S.R.s and group contacts.

An overview of a report on the 2020 International Convention from Gregg Talley, International Conventions consultant, was shared at the A.A.W.S. Board meeting. In this report from the April, 2013 joint meeting of the trustees' and Conference Committees on International Conventions/Regional Forums, Gregg assured the committees - based on an earlier site visit to Detroit - that a vital re-growth is taking place within the inner city, and that financial and safety concerns were not a factor in the areas the International Convention will be using. More recent information confirmed the findings of this report.

Several outside organizations have proposed to the U.S. Post Office that a commemorative stamp featuring a full face photo of Bill W. be issued. It was also suggested that this stamp would be introduced at the 2015 International Convention of which there is no truth. Letters have been written and sent to the U.S. Post Office and all Conference members that this proposal does not come from or have the support of Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc.

Once removed from YouTube at the request of the A.A.W.S. Board, an original version of a video about the 2010 International Convention has been reposted on YouTube. This production has the General Service Office erroneously named in the credits. We have once again asked that this version of the video be taken down from the YouTube site.

###