

## Delegates Report August Pre-Assembly Workshop Area 69 Utah

August 18, 2012

Vernal, Utah

### **“The General Service Conference Takes Its Inventory – Our Solution in Action”**

Hello my name is Keith and I am an alcoholic. It has been an incredible honor and privilege to serve the Area 69 Fellowship as the Panel 61 Delegate. The 62<sup>nd</sup> Conference report backs have been going extremely well. I, or Walter C. the Alternate Panel 61 Delegate, reported to all the Districts except District 4 and 5; however, I am not done, please do not let these be my last reports, I am available. Please invite me and I will come. In addition to the District Committee reports it has been my absolute honor to provide brief, or hour long, reports to a few recovery meetings. Although you never know for sure, there seemed to be genuine interest in the eyes of these members, who are not so involved with General Service. The love and respect Area 69 shows their delegate is incredible. I am simply overwhelmed with gratitude.

At the June 8, 2012 A.A.W.S. board meeting the newly elected chair Roberta L. General Service Trustee, opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance. Phyllis H., G.S.O General Manager, reported that 1) the Western Canada Regional Forum in Edmonton Alberta, was a great success, with 254 first time Forum attendees. The next Regional Forum will be held in the Eastern Canada Region. 2) Over the past few months, a team of tech professionals has done an in-depth technical review of the eReader project. Their initial efforts focused on the issues that were being reported to G.S.O. with the Apple iPhone version and fixes that are needed for an iPhone update. The Android reader continues to be on hold pending further examination by the board. and 3) Management has been communicating with our benefit plan consultants on a draft proposal for a defined contribution plan for employees.

GSO staff reports that in the second quarter of 2012, through Corrections Correspondence Service, we connected 338 incarcerated A.A.s with outside members to share their A.A. experience. The summer issue of *Sharing from Behind the Walls*, our quarterly newsletter of shared experience from incarcerated alcoholics, is available and I have brought a few copies today. Following the recommendations of the 2012 Conference Committee on Public Information, the video public service announcement for the Spanish-speaking community, “Tengo Esperanza,” is in post production and should be available soon. The Publications Department has the Alcoholics Anonymous 2011 Membership Survey, A.A. and the Armed Services pamphlets, and the revised Anonymity Wallet Cards available; I have a set of all three for you today.

Gross sales through the end of May 2012 were budgeted at \$5,530,240 - with actual sales of \$5,462,710. Print book units distribution for this same period totaled 754,897 units; non-A.A. purchases accounted for 130,055 units, or 17.2%. Since December 9, 2011 the launch date, a total of 6,018 e-books have been sold. A recent press release about the Big Book noted the Library of Congress designating our basic text as one of the 88 "Books That Shaped America." Publications director Valerie O'N noted that although G.S.O.'s Publications Department was not formally created until 1985, we continue to be one of the largest ongoing publishing operations in North America with an average distribution of 1 million Big Books annually and 3.3 million pamphlets in 2011. The Publishing Committee considered questions about existing translations of A.A. literature in Native American/First Nation languages and asked for a report on the status of Native American/First Nation translations. A.A.W.S. approved funding not to exceed \$1,500 for preparation of an audio version of a portion of the Big Book in Navajo.

Don Meurer (nonalcoholic), in finance, reports that during the first three months of 2012, contributions from A.A. Groups and members totaled \$1,610,596 (\$35,942 under budget); gross profit on literature sales was 2.1 million (\$43,463 under budget); and total expenses were 3.3 million (under budget \$68,811). Don was quick to point out that three months of activity do not indicate a trend. I noticed that once again we spend what we have, if contributions and sales are down we simply spend less; however, please note we are cutting or postponing important projects. During a report back at one of the districts I was asked for more information about carrying our message of self-support. I sent a quick email to Terry Bedient, Class A Trustee on the Finance Committee, and received permission to post "Around the Picnic Table" and Renae and Kurt have made it available on our web page. Thanks.

I ask for your thoughts and prayers for loving guidance as I trudge along our spiritual path into the 4<sup>th</sup> dimension. May we all walk in beauty as we pursue our happy, joyous, and free lives in the fellowship of the spirit.

Keith M., Area 69 Utah, Panel 61 Delegate